

FOCUS

THE MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • NOVEMBER 2020



COLEMAN ROAD EXTENSION

CONNECTING OUR REGION BY WORKING TOGETHER

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KAREN GRANNEMANN RECEIVES 2019 ATHENA AWARD • EAGLE FIT GYM — PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH EXERCISE

FOCUS ON SMALL BUSINESS: GREAT LAKES AIR



TIM DAMAN
President and CEO
Lansing Regional
Chamber of Commerce



Investment Driving Regional Growth

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, THE GREATER LANSING REGION has been driven by entrepreneurial spirit and resiliency that have led us through numerous challenges and fueled growth and prosperity. The most recent challenge has been the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Though numerous setbacks have occurred in every sector of our economy in the past few months, the same determination that led us through past challenges is again breaking through. As we head towards the close of a difficult year that many would rather forget, we in Greater Lansing are fortunate to celebrate several critical investments that are helping change the face of our region.

This month's FOCUS cover story celebrates one of those investments, which is the completion of the Coleman Road extension. This important infrastructure project was discussed on and off for more than two decades. It took an unprecedented coalition of regional leaders from the public and private sectors to make the Coleman Road project a reality. The project provides support for the growing financial services cluster in that area. In recent years, Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, GreenStone Farm Credit Services and Mercantile Bank are among those that have expanded their footprint in that area. SET SEG recently opened its new headquarters. Coleman Road will improve traffic flow and result in additional new economic development opportunities.

The Lansing Regional Chamber will honor the City of East Lansing and Clinton County for the Coleman Road project as part of the 15th annual Celebration of Regional Growth Awards (CORG) on Nov. 19. The virtual celebration will highlight several other important investments in the region.

Congratulations to Pat Gillespie and his team at the Gillespie Group for the completion of the Block 600 project. The opening of the Capital City Market, a downtown hotel, and residential living spaces will bring more people and new energy to the central business district.

“This month’s FOCUS cover story celebrates one of those investments, which is the completion of the Coleman Road extension. This important infrastructure project was discussed on and off for more than two decades. It took an unprecedented coalition of regional leaders from the public and private sectors to make the Coleman Road project a reality.”

Also, being recognized at CORG will be the Capitol Commission for the \$70 million Michigan State Capitol Restoration project, which features Heritage Hall, a 35,000-square-foot welcome center expected to be visited by more than 250,000 people annually. This will become the top tourist destination in our region.

The CORG celebration will also recognize the innovation that was brought about due to COVID-19. Sparrow will

be honored for its COVID testing facility featuring 3D printer produced testing swabs and the completion of more than 200,000 COVID tests protecting our region’s safety and wellness.

I am incredibly excited to recognize the voices of resiliency and innovation that our small business community demonstrated in the past few months. To that end, CORG will feature pre-recorded interviews with targeted small business owners who refused to be deterred by COVID forced setbacks and advanced some amazing innovations that have made a difference in the region.

Please join us for the Celebration of Regional Growth on Nov. 19. We will celebrate the great things that have emerged during a tough year, which will also serve as a preview of even better things to come in 2021. ■

AF Group
 Auto-Owners INSURANCE
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
 DEAN TRAILWAYS
 Dewpoint
 FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
 GM
 GRANGER WASTE SERVICES
 JACKSON NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
 McLaren GREATER LANSING
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 TWO MEN AND A TRUCK
 “Movers Who Care.”

JOIN THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Leadership Circle members are proven business and community leaders. We value their commitment and applaud their efforts to strengthen our region with their leadership and appreciate the important role they play in advancing our organization.

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LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER
VIRTUAL HEALTHCARE FORUM

Presented by:

Thursday, Nov. 12
11 a.m. - noon

Register at www.LansingChamber.org/Event-Calendar

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is a trusted convener of professionals, influencers, and leaders in the Lansing region.

During a time of mandated social distancing, the LRCC has hosted numerous virtual events, from Member Mixers to Economic Club programs, that have provided valuable content and information and given members an opportunity to network. The LRCC also continues to host virtual weekly roundtables for business, community, and government leaders to connect and share what is going on in their community.

The LRCC encourages members to check their email, follow LRCC social media channels, and visit the LRCC website for the most updated information on additional educational offerings and networking opportunities as we move forward.

Registration for all events is available on the LRCC website.

LANSING ECONOMIC CLUB

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to noon

Topic: Resigning Healthcare, Technology, Partnerships, and Innovation

Description: Before the new, state-of-the-art McLaren hospital opens, Kirk Ray, president and CEO, McLaren Greater Lansing, will provide an inside scoop on investments coming to the Lansing region, strategic partnership opportunities, and the local economic impact at the Nov. 10 Lansing Economic Club. The virtual event will take place from 11 a.m. to noon.

HEALTHCARE FORUM

Date: Thursday, Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon

Description: More people are reporting anxiety, depression, suicide, substance abuse, family conflicts, work-related problems, and obsessive-compulsive behavior due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Connect with us at our upcoming the 2020 Healthcare Forum featuring Dr. John Braccio, a fully licensed psychologist for Regional Psychological Services, to gain the tools you need to be resilient and come out of the pandemic mentally and physically

healthy! Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the virtual event will occur on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon.

NOVEMBER MEMBER MIXER

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Description: Hosted by AdvCoach of Mid-Michigan, the November Member Mixer will be held virtually from 4 to 5:30 pm. Member Mixers are an opportunity to connect and network with fellow LRCC members and business professionals.

VIRTUAL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES

Virtual roundtables allow community and government leaders an opportunity to share what is going on in the community and determine ways to advice the tri-county region.

- *Delta Township – Eaton County:* Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 9 to 10 a.m.
- *Lansing:* Wednesday, Nov. 11 from 9 to 10 a.m.
- *East Lansing – Meridian Township:* Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 9 to 10 a.m.
- *Delta Township – Eaton County:* Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 9 to 10 a.m.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY SOCIAL.

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 [Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce](https://LansingRegionalChamber.org)

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|--|--|
| AARP | Kelley Cawthorne |
| Alro Steel Corporation | Kellie's Consignments |
| American Board of Emergency Medicine | Kincaid Building Group, Inc. |
| The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan | Kunz, Leigh & Associates |
| American Red Cross-Mid Michigan Chapter | La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery |
| Ascend Physical Therapy and Rehab | Lansing Housing Commission |
| Baryames Cleaners | Mark Spagnuolo |
| Bethany Christian Services of Michigan | Martin Waymire |
| Capital Insurance Services, Corp. | Meridian Charter Township |
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| Century 21 Looking Glass, Inc. | Opportunity Resource Fund |
| Chase | Outdoor Expressions Landscaping LLC |
| City of St. Johns | The Peabody Group |
| Clark Construction Company, Inc. | Piper & Gold Public Relations |
| Country Stitches | Playmakers |
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| DeWitt Charter Township | Product Resource Company |
| Diversified National Title Agency | Public Sector Consultants |
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| | The Waggoner Financial Group |
| | Window World |

CHAMBER MILESTONES

We'd like to offer a special salute to these great organizations who reached milestone anniversaries as Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) members this month. Thank you for your continued support throughout the years!

Adams Outdoor Advertising
60 Years

DC Engineering, PC
15 Years

Granger Construction Company
60 Years

Michigan Federation for Children and Families
15 Years

Lebuda-Totte-Bray Agency
40 Years

Created2c
5 Years

Capital Area District Library - Administration
20 Years

Greenlee Consulting
5 Years

LRCC members have unparalleled access to company and staff profiles on the LRCC website. To access and update this information at any point, visit lansingchamber.org and enter your username and password. If you have not yet logged onto the site, please follow the simple password reset instructions. Call (517) 487-6340 with any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AEROTEK, INC.
2501 N. Coolidge Road,
Suite 203
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 381-3326

JUNK IN THE TRUNK
13070 Wacousta Road,
Grand Ledge, MI
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 775-8079

MIOTECH ORTHOPEDIC GROUP
2373 Cedar Park Drive
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 833-1000

CONFERENCE DIRECT
105 Luther Blvd.
Albion, MI 49224
301-514-8101
valerie-franzen.go-conferencedirect.com

METRO PLACE APARTMENTS
301 W. Lenawee St.
Lansing, 48933
(517) 333-1635
www.facebook.com/MetroPlaceApartments

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702 San Antonio St.
Austin, TX 78701
844-493-6249
www.zenbusiness.com/form-llc/michigan

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P.O. Box 91
Clark Lake, MI 49234
(517) 206-7464

RELAUNCH Greater Lansing Task Force Launches New Website Featuring a Complete Database of COVID-19 Resources

A TASK FORCE LEADING REGIONAL EFFORTS TO RESTART THE ECONOMY during the COVID-19 pandemic has created a comprehensive website complete with the latest information related to COVID-19. The RELAUNCH Greater Lansing: Economic Rehabilitation Task Force has developed the website to provide the most up-to-date information to assist organizations as they continue to adjust to new realities brought on due to the ever-evolving pandemic. The website can be accessed at www.relaunchgreaterlansing.com.

“The successful relaunch of our local economy remains in the early stages, and the rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 crisis is challenging for organizations to keep up with,” said Tim Daman, president & CEO, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. “The RELAUNCH Greater Lansing website will be a one-stop experience for any organization looking for relevant information needed on any given day.”

The RELAUNCH Greater Lansing website includes all the information that businesses must be aware of, including protecting employees by screening, creating workplace distancing, cleaning, and sanitation, and what to do when an employee might be sick with COVID-19. The website also features commonly asked questions and information about where people can get tested.

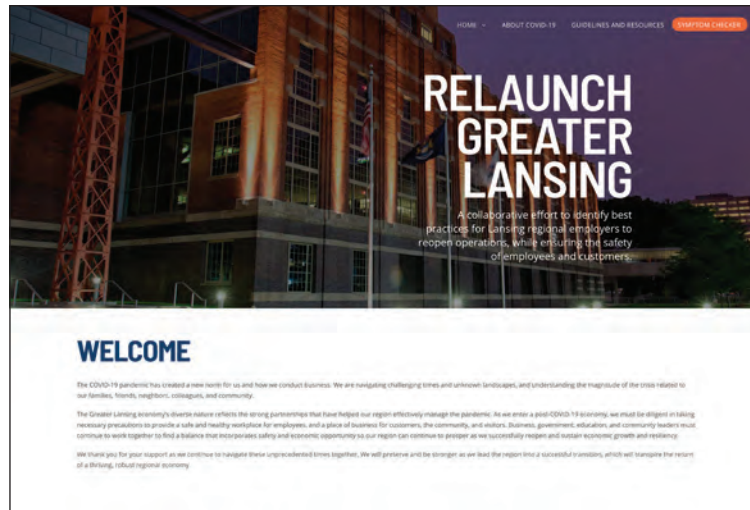
“There are two types of organizations right now: those that are currently trying to get back to work safely and navigate safety protocols and testing, and those that continue to work remotely and won’t be dealing with many of those protocols until after the first of the year,” said Carrie Rosingana, president & CEO, Capital Area Michigan Works! “This website provides resources for both types of organizations.”

The RELAUNCH Greater Lansing Task Force consists of trusted and prominent leaders in business, government, healthcare, and education. The group has been working diligently to develop a comprehensive strategy for industries within the Greater Lansing region to reopen business safely and successfully.

“Recovering from the pandemic continues to be a challenging process for organizations of every size and shape, and across all sectors of our regional economy,” said Robert Trezise, president & CEO, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). “Businesses have their hands full conducting day-to-day business and have another layer of COVID-19-related issues to factor into their operation. We are attempting to make that process more efficient for everyone.”

Since its formation in the spring, The RELAUNCH Greater Lansing Task Force has involved a collaborative effort that has been conducted in conjunction with Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s MI Safe Start Plan. The Safe Start Plan has focused on re-engaging Michigan’s economy by a regional, phased-in approach.

One of the defining characteristics of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the constant flow of new information and updates often occurring daily. The



amount of information to track can be overwhelming, especially considering all the other day-to-day pressures. A prime example is the recent ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court ruling against Governor Whitmer’s executive orders issued during the pandemic.

“The RELAUNCH Greater Lansing website will continue to be a valuable resource for employers to understand all of the legalities involved,” said Daman. “We can expect more executive orders from the state and local health departments. Our team will track that information and make it available right away.”

The website also contains information about the over hundred organizations throughout the region that have also committed to the *Greater Lansing Safe Pledge*, an initiative launched by the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau (GLCVB). The Safe Pledge campaign is an initiative to demonstrate that our region is taking necessary precautions to keep everyone healthy and safe during the pandemic.

“The Greater Lansing Safe Pledge is a free and powerful way for businesses to communicate their commitment to the health and well-being of their employees, our community and visitors to the region,” said Julie Pingston, president & CEO, GLCVB. The pledge outlines specific actions, following all local, county, and state health guidelines, for your business to help slow the spread of the Coronavirus. Businesses who wish to make the pledge *can do so online*.

Members of the RELAUNCH Greater Lansing Task Force include:

- Terrance Augustine, Eaton County Board of Commissioners
- Farhan Bhatti, M.D., Care Free Medical
- Bryan Crenshaw, Ingham County Board of Commissioners
- Tim Daman, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Tico Duckett, Duckett Brothers Distributing
- Brent Forsberg, T.A. Forsberg
- Peter Graham, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Physicians Health Plan
- Kevin Irwin, TechSmith
- Janet Lillie, Michigan State University
- Jason Mellema, Ingham Intermediate School District
- Bob Mooney, Meijer
- Julie Pingston, Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Matt Resch, Resch Strategies
- Carrie Rosingana, Capital Area Michigan Works!
- Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing
- Patricia Scott, Foster Swift
- Bob Trezise, Lansing Economic Area Partnership
- Linda Vail, Ingham County Health Department
- Kam Washburn, Clinton County Board of Commissioners
- Mike Zamiara, Niowave ■

Karen Grannemann Receives 2019 ATHENA Leadership Award

THOUGH COVID-19 CAUSED A DELAY OF SEVERAL MONTHS in the ATHENA Awards presentations, the moment was just as special for this year's recipient, Karen Grannemann. The ATHENA Awards program was initially scheduled for March 24 but had to be postponed due to the COVID pandemic. Grannemann, CEO and general manager, was the University Club at Michigan State University, formally received the ATHENA Award at a virtual presentation hosted by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 8.

"COVID may have prevented us from getting together, but there is one thing it cannot change," said Grannemann. "How much this award means to me and how grateful I am."

Karen was recognized with the ATHENA award due to her excellence in professional leadership throughout a career that has spanned more than 40 years, her tireless commitment that has made a lasting impact in the community service arena, and her passionate support in mentoring other women.

Karen came to her position at the U-Club following a highly successful 20-year career at the Educational Institute at the American Hotel and Lodging Association. She noted that her frequent travels kept her from being home with the family, and meant her knowledge of the community was very limited, something she set out to change when she transitioned to the U-Club.

"While my girls were still young, I went to work at the U-Club, a place that epitomizes community," said Grannemann. "I quickly learned how much I had been missing."

Karen immersed herself in the community and over the past two decades has held leadership roles in a wide array of civic and service organizations, including Zonta Club of East Lansing Area, Okemos School District, Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan, Literacy Volunteers of America, Junior League of Lansing, 100 Women Who Care, Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Greater Lansing Food Bank, Lansing Promise Foundation, Habitat for Humanity Women Build, Athena WIN, and the Sparrow Foundation. She has made a significant impact on the effectiveness of each organization and the achievement of its goals.

In response to the cancellation of the annual awards gathering, Grannemann used the virtual program to spotlight the community and invited everyone to join her in a project designed to enhance the love of reading in the Lansing School District. The program, called Lansing Reads, has three goals: to provide every student with a CADL library card, to collect at least 200 videos of area residents reading children's books, and to raise \$50,000 for Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), an organization that distributes children's books to LSD students.



Grannemann



Auld



Palmer



Jenny Quinn and Trista Parisian

"Since we couldn't be together, I decided to create a community project we could do together," said Grannemann. "Even in this time of separation."

Learn more about the project and how to participate by attending the program by visiting www.lansingreads.org.

Karen closed her remarks by paying tribute to her husband, Norman, a hydrogeologist who has spent much of his career on work related to the Great Lakes. They are proud parents of two adult daughters, who continue their mother's leadership skills and dedication to community service. Sarah is vice president of Baltimore Corps, a nonprofit that enlists talent to accelerate social innovation in Baltimore and advance a city-wide agenda for equity and racial justice. Laura is vice president of strategic investments for Quicken Loans.

The ATHENA program also served as an opportunity to recognize recent recipients of the ATHENAPowerLink (APL) Award. This program that matches a deserving entrepreneur with a panel of experts who provide mentoring and consulting for one year, a program valued at \$50,000. 2019 recipient Leslie Auld of Therapy Today Counseling and Consulting said her panel helped her grow her business and refine her processes.

"They also helped me grow as a leader," said Auld. "I have grown so much over the year."

2020 APL recipient Lauren Palmer of Curvaceous Lingerie has had a most interesting year, most notably with COVID, which has hit the retail business particularly hard. She also had a baby in July.

"There have been a few monkey wrenches that we have been encountering and battling," said Palmer. "I have to say the PowerLink advisors that I have been gifted with over the course of the year have been instrumental, allowing me to push through everything."

The program also provided an opportunity to announce the 2021 APL recipients, Jenny Quinn, and Trista Parisian of Flex City Fitness. ■

Resch Strategies Awards Leadership Lansing Scholarship to Arts Council of Greater Lansing

LEADERSHIP FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING will have the opportunity to attend Leadership Lansing, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce’s leadership initiative, at no cost this year thanks to a contribution from Resch Strategies.

Matt Resch, founder of the Lansing-based public relations and public affairs firm, said the scholarship is being offered for the sixth consecutive year.



Martin

“The Leadership Lansing program provides access to influential experiences and training for our local community leaders,” said Matt Resch, president of Resch Strategies. “Through our scholarship program, we are proud to provide support to local nonprofits like the Arts Council of Greater Lansing so that they can continue making a positive impact in our region.”

The Resch Strategies Leadership Lansing Scholarship was first established in 2015 to encourage area nonprofit leaders to participate in the program by

covering the full cost of tuition. Participants in the program engage in seven workshops over eight months, where they are exposed to key local institutions, industry sectors, and business leaders.

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing supports, strengthens, and promotes arts, culture, and creativity in the Capital Region. The Council is a member service organization, granting agency, and regional nonprofit that cultivates opportunities for artists and arts and cultural organizations.

“I am excited for the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Lansing programming, thanks to the generous support from Resch Strategies,” said Meghan Martin, executive director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. “I look forward to taking everything I learn from this leadership training and using it to support arts and culture in the Lansing area.”

Past recipients of the scholarship are Child and Family Charities, Hospice of Lansing, Transformation GEMS Women Entrepreneur Startup Accelerator, Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center, Davies Project for Mid-Michigan Children, and First Tee of Mid-Michigan.

For more information about Resch Strategies or the Leadership Lansing Scholarship, please visit www.ReschStrategies.com or call (517) 371-7843. ■

YOUR BEST CHANCE AT BEATING CANCER.

With 16 locations throughout Michigan and proudly a part of McLaren Health Care, Karmanos is the largest provider of cancer care and research in the state. We offer the newest and most exclusive cancer fighting drugs and our elite team of cancer specialists gives you the support you need every step of the way.

Coming in 2022, our new state-of-the-art cancer center will be home to an integrated team of world-class clinicians and researchers from Karmanos Cancer Institute and Michigan State University.

Cancer care is available closer to home at McLaren.

To learn more, visit karmanos.org/lansingcancer.





Helping Minority-Owned Business Thrive Where They Are

\$1.8M PARTNERSHIP DRIVES EQUITY, INCLUSION AMONG UNDERREPRESENTED ENTREPRENEURS

HELPING AND SUPPORTING MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES secure the tools and access networks they need to succeed is no longer a pipe dream for Detroit-area entrepreneurs— it’s an action item.

Through a \$1.8 million investment in *Lightship Capital* from *Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana* and its subsidiary, The 4100 Group, underrepresented and underestimated business owners will soon have access to secure funding, mentoring, and technical support to get their dreams up and running.

It’s a timely and urgent investment as minority small business owners often face roadblocks, inequitable access, and social constraints that rob them of the opportunities to build and lead thriving, robust businesses.

Lightship Capital is a Cincinnati-based venture capital fund focused on funding and educating underrepresented entrepreneurs, including women, people of color and those who identify as LGBTQ+ or disabled.

Delta Dental and the 4100 Group entered the \$1.8 million partnership with Lightship Capital to provide these entrepreneurs with equitable access to the tools, training, capital, and a network of potential partners to build wealth.

It’s a conversation the companies have been engaged in since the start of 2020.

“We knew right from the start this partnership would allow more investors and consumers to see these founders’ full potential, help underserved communities overcome social injustice and inequity and ultimately allow our regions to thrive with local talent and ideas,” said Margaret Trimer, vice president of strategic partnerships at Delta Dental.

According to Cornell University researcher Courtney McCluney, Black women have recently been the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs nationally, despite having disproportionate access to resources like capital.

“The overall mission is to empower, educate, fund, and scale some great companies in this ecosystem,” said Candice Brackeen, general partner at Lightship Capital. “When founders have access to these resources, their chances of scaling and making a real economic impact in the region increase exponentially. And when local businesses win, the community at large wins, too.”

“Detroit is set to bring in the programming since the city already boasts a vibrant tech and entrepreneur ecosystem,” said Brackeen. “Programs offering underrepresented entrepreneurs access to mentorship, networks and organized guidance around scaling their businesses are likely to have a profound economic impact in Detroit.”

Projects on the horizon include ventures such as pop-up restaurants and retail to mobile dental care.

Lightship Capital not only invests in startups but also offers two entrepreneurial education programs—*Hillman*, an accelerator, and *NewME Bootcamp*.

Hillman is a growth-focused, entrepreneur education program serving underrepresented, tech-driven startups through mentorship, specialized curriculum, partnerships, and capital investments.

The NewME Bootcamp is a one-week retreat for a cohort of 10 founders building companies in a variety of industries, including tech and health. They live together, share meals, and have their business strategies critiqued and constructed to help them reach the next level. ■



Why And How to Elevate the DEI Discussion At Your Business

A FINANCIAL INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ARE MORE THAN BUZZWORDS at LAFCU, a Michigan credit union headquartered in Lansing. Its board of directors recently voted to create a chief diversity officer position, but the pursuit of DEI began long before then.

“We want to accelerate and expand diversity and inclusion initiatives already in place,” said CEO Patrick Spyke. “Everyone should feel valued and that they belong.”

WHY IS DEI IMPORTANT?

Fostering a diverse employee population where everyone can bring their best selves to work is the right thing to do, and it’s better for business. Research has shown that a company with more diverse representation in senior management will likely achieve greater profits.

Successful DEI programs help every employee show up each day without fear of showing their true selves. This fosters higher degrees of engagement, productivity and innovation that contribute to increased revenue.

WHERE TO BEGIN

Management needs to set DEI as a priority by allocating time and perhaps budget to support this goal. In LAFCU’s case, it appointed Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, a 32-year LAFCU employee, to the role of chief diversity officer.

DEI, however, cannot live just within one person or even one committee. To be successful, this work must be owned by all departments and individuals within the organization.

Focusing on internal initiatives, Ellsworth Etchison began by coordinating conversations with employee groups and is creating a committee to review policies to ensure no one is left behind.

Ellsworth Etchison said, “Racial, gender and socioeconomic biases are systemic in our society. Because we’re brought up in that society, these biases may be ingrained in us, even if we don’t realize it. It’s important to talk about people’s different experiences and challenges, or we’ll end up with policies inconsiderate of one group or another.”

The conversations are no-judgement zones where participants talk about inherent biases and how they affect employees, members, LAFCU financial products and community programs.

“Especially important for those at a financial institution will be discussions about 1930s’ government policies that segregated housing and reduced housing opportunities for people of color,” Ellsworth Etchison said.

Examples are:

- Subsidies for subdivisions prohibiting sales to African Americans.



Ellsworth Etchison



Spyke



- Highway placement that negatively affected predominantly African American residential areas.
- Denial of financial services to those living in certain neighborhoods, also known as redlining.

Areas deemed at highest risk for mortgages were outlined in red on maps. Areas less risky — more desirable, typically more likely to be white neighborhoods — were outlined in yellow, blue or green. Mortgages for properties in redlined areas — typically older neighborhoods with high minority residency — were more costly and more difficult to obtain.

“Though these policies became illegal in the 1960s, housing discrimination continued for years,” she said. “This is why the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974 remain important today, and are important lessons for people providing community financial services.”

In addition to appointing a chief diversity officer, working to form a DEI committee and having tough discussions around hard topics like race and gender in the workplace, LAFCU is hosting a guest speaker at its employee in-service day about recognizing unconscious bias and sending DEI videos to spark conversations.

“You don’t need to be an expert to support a DEI mindset within your organization,” said Spyke. “Just commit to open up the dialogue, listen to your people and act with understanding and inclusion.”

The bottom line for business is that DEI initiatives are a long-term, ongoing commitment that should lead to greater employee engagement and higher revenue. ■



WORKING TOGETHER IS HOW ANYTHING GETS DONE IN THIS REGION. THIS IS A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY.



COLEMAN ROAD EXTENSION

CONNECTING OUR REGION BY WORKING TOGETHER

After more than two decades of envisioning, discussion, wishful thinking and coalition building, the extension of the Coleman Road corridor along the northern Ingham, Southern Clinton County line has become a reality. An official ribbon-cutting to open the Coleman Road extension was held on Oct. 21.

“What a great day for the highly anticipated celebration for the Coleman Road project,” said Tim Daman, president & CEO, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC). “The theme today of connecting our region by working together speaks to the number of people who were involved in this project over several years.”

“This is part of a vision,” said former East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows. “I want to thank all of you for all the work that went into this. This is a group effort. This is a great thing to have on the ground and open for use now.”

The Coleman Road extension connects Coleman Road to Wood Road and U.S. 127. Funding for the long-sought project came due to an effort led by the Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG) and the LRCC, which led to a \$7.6 million grant from the state of Michigan. Construction work began a little more than a year ago and remained on schedule throughout, despite brief setbacks due to weather and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 protocols.

“There were many agencies involved, including Clinton County, East Lansing, Dewitt Township, and Lansing Township, and all were working together to keep the project on track,” said Doug Steffen, managing director, Clinton County Road Commission. “It took a lot of collaborative effort and communicating to make sure all the different pieces fit together. It was a very detailed process to get everything in line.”

“We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Clinton County Road Commission and all the contractors including C2AE for their work on making this project a reality,” said Daman. “They managed to work through all the issues involved with numerous jurisdictions involved and overcome the challenges brought on by COVID-19 to keep this project on schedule and within budget. Congratulations on a job well done.”

The Coleman Road project is expected to relieve traffic congestion in the Lake Lansing/US 127/Wood Street area.

“Lake Lansing and 127 is one of the most congested areas in the Lansing area,” said Meadows. “This extension will take a lot of traffic off of that corner.”

Dewitt Township Supervisor Rick Galardi sees the traffic benefits as being all about circulation.

“We are ready for whatever we can do to help our businesses get attached,” said Galardi. “This brings East Lansing through Lansing Township and close to Lansing. If we can build on that circulation, that will be huge.”

The Coleman Road project has been discussed for two decades but never seemed to be a high enough priority to become a reality. In recent years, a growing number of local leaders in the private and public sectors advanced the project to the top of the regional priority list.

“I think a central component of getting this done was the strong relationship we have with our local legislators and the inclusion of the Lansing Chamber in the process,” said Meadows. “It was the work of a lot of people over a long period. I thought we would have had this ribbon cutting a long time ago, but I am happy we were able to get this done.”

“We at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce have stressed the importance of a regional approach to issues and building strong, bipartisan coalitions,” said Steve Japinga, vice president of public affairs, LRCC. “We have worked hard as a convener of all the various interests and been able to bring people together around a

COLEMAN ROAD CONTRACTORS MAKE PROJECT A REALITY

The Coleman Road Project benefitted from the efforts of a championship team involved in the design and construction of the project!

C2AE TEAM

C2AE – Lead Design

Carter & Associates Engineers, Inc. – Traffic Signals

KEBS, Inc. – Topographical Survey and
Boundary Description

Marx Wetlands – Wetland Delineation

Intertek-PSI – Geotechnical Exploration

PHASE I CONSTRUCTION TEAM

C&D Hughes - Road and Utility Construction

Anlaan Corp. – Bridge Rehabilitation

Capitol Barricading – Traffic Control

Eastlund – Concrete

J. Ranck – Traffic Signals, Electrical and
Street Lighting

Nylander – Survey

PK Contractor – Pavement Markings

Nerc – Restoration and Landscaping

Michigan Paving and Materials - HMA paving

PHASE II CONSTRUCTION TEAM

TCI Inc. of Michigan – Prime Contractor,

Water Main Open Trench

RC Drilling – Directional Drilling Water Main

shared priority, put a plan together, and execute. In the case of the Coleman Road extension, it is rewarding to see the results of those efforts.”

Galardi credits Meadows for bringing various parties together to support the Coleman Road vision. He also attributes the formation of CACOG with being instrumental in making the project a reality.

“No two ways about it, forming CACOG was a brilliant move,” said Galardi. “I was completely on board, especially considering we are on the border of Lansing and East Lansing and have many of the same issues and benefits of being in that area. It was a critical move at a critical time.”

CAPCOG, which includes Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties and LRCC and Michigan State University, made the Coleman Road extension its top priority. That decision meant republicans and democrats, urban, rural, and suburban leaders were all on the same page, pushing for a project they felt was important for the entire region.

COLEMAN ROAD EXTENSION

“When we finally came together as a group, we were able to convince the appropriate legislative people that funding that project would enhance the region in terms of economic opportunities as well as additional means of travel around a very congested area,” said Robert Showers who serves on CAPCOG and the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.

The final piece of the process was a bipartisan effort led by the legislative members of the Capital Caucus and local leaders to finally secure the needed funding. Former House Minority Leader Sam Singh was a driving force behind those efforts.

“Because it was a project that was a priority for so many local units of government, it became something we could work on collectively,” said Singh, CEO, Public Policy Associates. “I know I spoke with Governor Snyder on several occasions and we all wrote letters and made phone calls to help push this through.”

“It wasn’t easy, but we got it done,” said former State Senator Rick Jones.

In addition to the traffic issues that the Coleman Road extension will help alleviate, the corridor is ripe for development. There is a great deal of prime undeveloped land in the area that will draw considerable interest from occupiers and developers, according to the Van Martin, CEO, Martin Commercial Properties.

“I’ve always looked at that as a corporate headquarter row with MSU Federal Union, GreenStone, American Cancer and others, said Martin. “We could see a major office building, possibly another hotel and perhaps some mixed-use at the corner of Coleman and Coolidge Road. We could also see restaurants and additional retail in that area.”

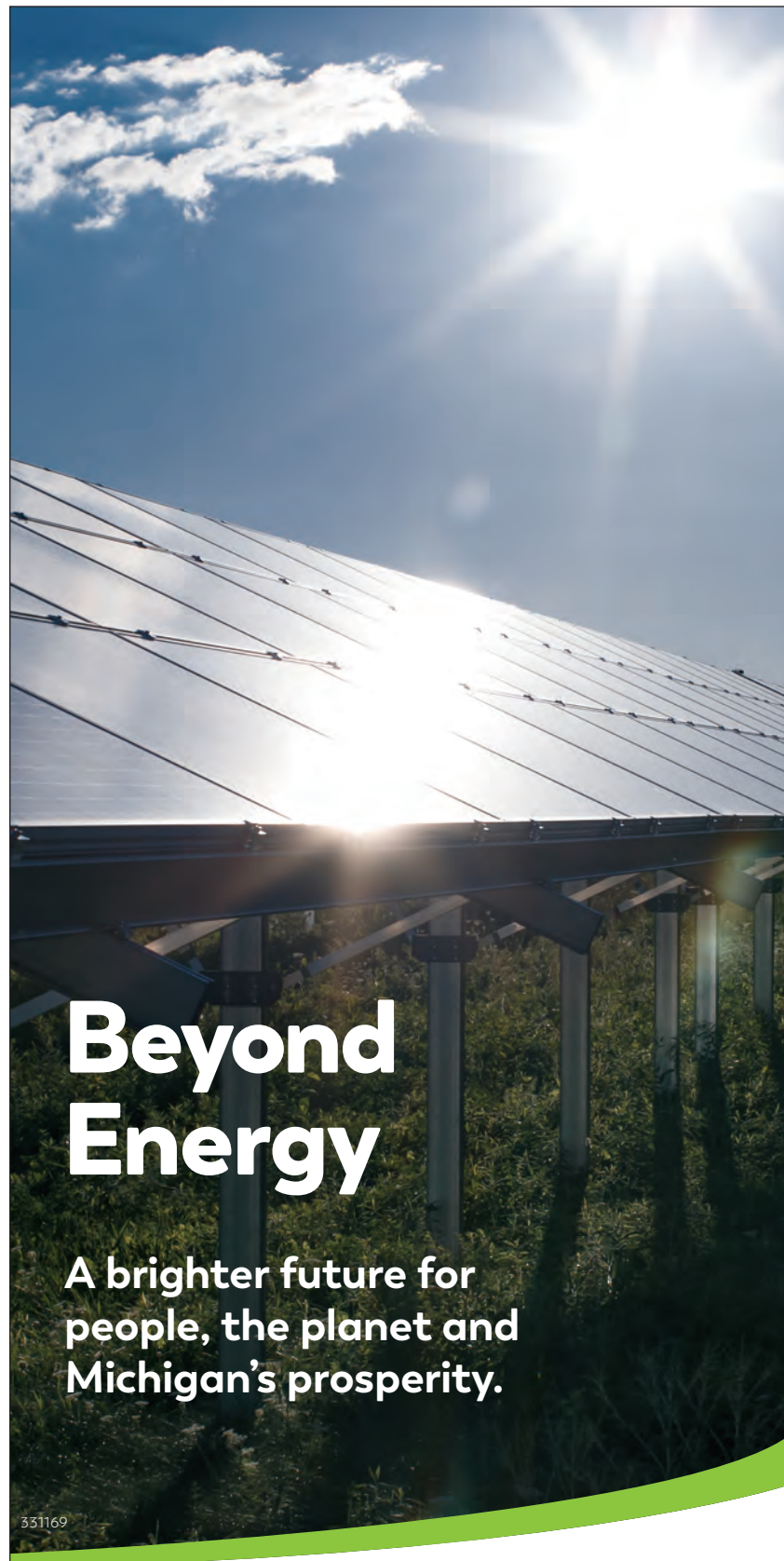
Martin also sees the potential for housing development on the east side of Coolidge across from MSUFCU.

Completing the Coleman Road project is a model of how bipartisan collaboration can benefit the entire Greater Lansing region. CAPCOG was among regional groups that successfully lobbied for state funds to construct the new Heritage Center, a major tourism project at the State Capitol Complex. CAPCOG was also instrumental in helping Lansing Mayor Andy Schor receive permission to convert several two-way streets in downtown Lansing to one-way streets, which is something leaders feel will be a boost for business in the area.

“Coleman Road was the first time in history that a group of municipalities in this region came together, put aside party differences to accomplish a great good,” said Showers.

“Working together is how anything gets done in this region,” said Meadows. “This is a collaborative approach to improving the economic stability of our community.”

Traffic is now flowing on the Coleman Road extension. The new corridor is open for business. The collaborative efforts that led to funding for the Coleman Road project are a model that should serve the region well for overcoming challenges and advancing priorities that will have a significant impact on the region in the future. ■



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What We Are Working on for You and Your Business at the State Capitol

COVID-19 BUSINESS LIABILITY PROTECTIONS

The headline: The COVID-19 business liability protection bills focused on providing common sense legal reform measures were signed by the Governor. The bills provide legal immunity to businesses, nonprofits and others who follow federal and state statutes and regulations related to COVID-19.

The details: *House Bill 6030* does the following:

- Specifies a person who acts in compliance with all federal, state, and local statutes, rules, regulations, executive orders and agency orders related to COVID-19 in effect at the time of the conduct or risk that allegedly caused harm is immune from liability for a COVID-19 claim.
- The bill defines “person” as an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity or other legal entity, including, but not limited to, a school, a college or university, an institution of higher education and a nonprofit charitable organization.
- It also includes an employee, agent, or independent contractor of the person, regardless of whether the individual is paid or an unpaid volunteer.

House Bill 6031 makes similar changes to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act.

House Bill 6032 codifies the Governor’s Executive Order that prohibits discharge, discipline, or retaliation against employees who stay home because they test positive, display the principal symptoms or have had close contact with an individual who tests positive or displays the principal symptoms.

Why it matters: The legislation is fair and balanced in that it supports the safety and health of employees and customers, as well as protecting employers/business owners from frivolous lawsuits.


UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The headline: Due to the Michigan Supreme Court ruling against the Governor’s state of emergency powers of issuing executive orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Legislature has been working to codify certain executive orders such as unemployment benefits.

The details: The unemployment legislation that was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor continues to do the following:


- Maintains “non-charging” employers for COVID-19 related unemployment benefits.
- Authorizes increased flexibility for employers participating in the Workshare program.
- Ensures individuals filing an initial state claim for unemployment benefits could receive up to 26 weeks of benefits.

Why it matters: The legislation is important to assist employers manage through the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to unemployment. ■




LRCC POLICY PRIORITIES SURVEY RESULTS

Top Policy Priorities



1. Jobs & the Economy
2. Regional Infrastructure
3. Talent & Workforce Development
4. Healthcare Accessibility & Affordability
5. Government Regulations | Local Government Financial Health



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021, WHAT, IF ANY, FINANCIAL IMPACT DO YOU EXPECT THAT COVID-19 WILL HAVE ON YOUR BUSINESS:

MODERATE:

43%

SIGNIFICANT:


37%

VERY LITTLE OR NONE:

11%

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE CHAMBER’S BUSINESS ADVOCACY EFFORTS?

72%



PREPARED BY THE LRCC PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM



Great Lakes Air Ventures Elevating the Flight School Experience

BY: MATTIE MILNE, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS

KILO, TANGO, ECHO & WHISKEY: The four-letter identifier for Great Lakes Air Ventures (GLAV) of Mason, Mich.

GLAV, owned by Dale Foerschler, is located at Mason Jewett Airport, KTEW, and has been providing aviation lessons in the Mid-Michigan area since 2014.

From the university-level, online learning curriculum to the advanced flying lessons, Great Lakes Air proudly offers quality instructions for aspiring pilots of all levels.

Foerschler is a retired army pilot and served as an instructor in the military for the last 26 years. He has been teaching flying since 1992 and has flown over 12,000 hours, flying helicopters and airplanes.

“This is ideal for those aspiring to have a career in aviation. If you wish to work for a large airline or commercial operator, GLAV gives you a huge step forward in the education process,” Foerschler said. “This program takes a student who has never flown before and trains them to become a multi-engine instructor.”

GLAV will pair up with a major university, offering a degree associated with flight school, to create an elevated aviation program which will open this coming winter. Students have the chance to earn their restricted airline transport pilot (ATP) license, achieve 1,000 hours of training, and even apply for student loans. The university portion allows students to receive a four-year degree—a necessary component to becoming a pilot.

GLAV has 13 aircraft from a Cessna 150 to a King Air C90, offering instructions for every one of its carriers.

Similar cohorts at larger universities require students to follow drawn-out ground school and lengthy procedures. These instructions stand apart due to the ability to begin flying only a few months into classes, following a pace best for the individual student.

GLAV offers a discovery program with Holt High School, immersing students in a six-week program focused on aviation basics. Scholars can move forward if interested and begin applying to the university, exponentially advancing the flight school process. Additionally, Foerschler started a nonprofit called GLAV that works to offset the cost of schooling.

“By the time they finish high school, they can be done with private and instrument training and jump into commercial,” Foerschler said. “GLAV provides an amazing, professional opportunity for this community, advancing our youth and building a brighter, more valuable future.”

To learn further about opportunities with GLAV, visit greatlakesairventures.com. ■

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Jennifer Marsh, Commercial Relationship Manager
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COVID-19 and the Importance of Research Universities

THE UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS CREATED BY COVID-19 has shown more than ever that the world needs universities with the scope and scale of Michigan's three largest research universities – Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. These universities, which make up Michigan's University Research Corridor (URC), have been at the forefront of responding to and fighting COVID-19. The presidents of the URC universities appeared together at the Lansing Economic Club to discuss their universities' leadership role to address the crisis in Michigan. Participating in the panel discussion were: Dr. Mark Schlissel, M.D., PhD, president, University of Michigan; Dr. Roy M. Wilson, M.D., president, Wayne State University, and Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D., president, Michigan State University. The program was moderated by Patti Poppe, president & CEO, CMS Energy and Consumers Energy.

COVID-19 has turned the world upside down and this has been particularly true in higher education and at the three research institutions that have been on the frontline of the pandemic battle

"I always knew that my first year at Michigan State University would have some challenges," noted President Stanley. "The past few months in particular have been a test for all of us. One of the things it has done has been to demonstrate how vital the URC institutions are to the state of Michigan and the world."

"The importance of research universities has become even more magnified during the pandemic," said President Wilson. "It has been an all-hands-on-deck kind of situation."

The discussion coincided with the release of a URC report brief that highlights the work faculty researchers, medical staff, university staff, and students have done and continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19 on every aspect of our lives.

"Researchers from all around the country have shifted the focus of their research," said President Schlissel. "There is a great sense of public-spiritedness in the global research community, recognizing that we are all affected locally, and we are affected globally."

The report released by the URC highlights the amazing work that all three universities have been engaged in during the pandemic.



Poppe



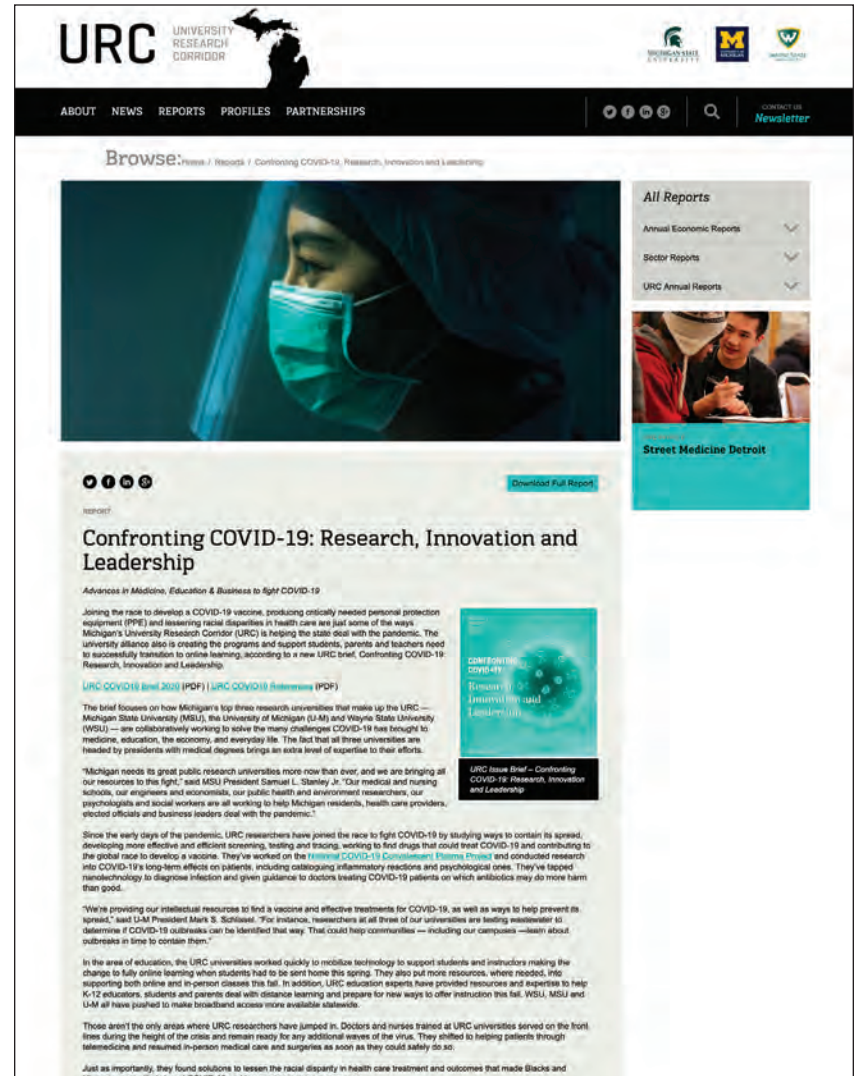
Stanley



Schlissel



Wilson



One of the many successes has been the ability to effectively eliminate a significant racial disparity that was evident at the beginning of the pandemic has been wiped out.

"The data is pretty clear, and it has been consistent for several weeks," said Dr. Wilson. "Our collective efforts have had some effect."

The fact that all three university presidents are medical doctors has impacted how they have approached the COVID-19 pandemic. President Wilson said the education they received in medical school taught them how to approach a problem, something is a benefit and, at times, a challenge.

"When you train in thinking a certain way, where you are comfortable knowing you won't have all the information you would like, but know you have to decide, especially in a situation that has a real risk to real people," said President Schlissel. "One of the challenges I have had in leading the campus is helping people understand the nature of risk."

"I think we have a perspective on this that is guided both by our ability to deal with uncertainty as well as our ability to understand the power of science and the power of research and innovation," said President Stanley.

To review the COVID-19 report from University Research Corridor, visit www.urcmich.org/reports/c19brief. ■



Cinnaire & Allen Neighborhood Center Join Forces to Revitalize Lansing’s Eastside

ALLEN PLACE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE MIXED-INCOME HOUSING AND SERVE AS A HUB FOR WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

AFTER MORE THAN 21 YEARS OF PROVIDING FOOD AND HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES

to Lansing residents, the Allen Neighborhood Center is undertaking a major rebuild. Cinnaire has announced a \$5.9 million investment to support the rehabilitation and significant expansion of the Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC) to create Allen Place, a project at the intersection of food, health, housing, and energy innovation. The project is expected to generate a capital investment of \$11 million and create 14 full-time jobs. Since 2018, Cinnaire Solutions, the in-house development division of Cinnaire, has partnered with ANC Holdings, LLC, to generate funding and bring about this comprehensive development project.

“Cinnaire Solutions is focused on making meaningful impact guided by five principles – people, place, partnerships, pioneering, and prosperity,” said Christopher Laurent, Cinnaire Solutions President. “It has been a rewarding experience for our team to collaborate with the ANC team to bring this transformative project to Lansing’s Eastside.”

The Allen Place Project will include 21 mixed-income rental housing units, a health clinic, a food co-op specializing in locally grown/raised food products, and increased access to healthy food options for area residents. An Accelerator Kitchen will catalyze expanded business opportunities and growth for small scale food entrepreneurs. The Accelerator, along with ANC’s six-year-old Incubator Kitchen, will create a pipeline of small food business development infrastructure on the block.

The development team has partnered with the Lansing Board of Water and Light to create the region’s first micro-grid incorporating multiple methods of solar collection (e.g., solar- collecting roof panels and carports and solar doc picnic tables in our ‘solar courtyard’.)

Conveniently located close to downtown Lansing, the project will provide much-needed affordable housing options for individuals, families, young professionals, and seniors. Allen Place provides an age-friendly environment designed to facilitate social interaction and social programming and allowing senior residents to age in place. Other project amenities for residents will include active programming from ANC, a community room, computer center, outdoor picnic areas and ‘green spaces,’ an on-site farmers market, nutrition education, and cooking classes.

In addition to Cinnaire, the Allen Place Project has received generous support from the City of Lansing, Michigan Community Capital (providing an allocation of New Market Tax Credits), the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE), Lansing Board of Water and Light, the Michigan Good Food Fund, Lansing Area Community Trust Fund, Consumers Energy Foundation, The Accident Fund, Capital Area Community Foundation, and Comerica Foundation. Also, PNC Bank provided ANC with a \$3.4 million loan to help make the development a reality.

“PNC’s Community Development Banking Group is committed to improving the quality of life in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods,” said Tim Salisbury, PNC regional president for Mid-Michigan. “Our team collaborated with a great group of dedicated professionals to make this truly amazing project come to life.”

This neighborhood-crafted project also enjoys enthusiastic support from the engaged and mobilized residents of Lansing’s Eastside. ■

Lansing Housing Commission Providing More than Affordable Housing

BY: MATTIE MILNE, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS

“CREATE A MODEL FOR THE NATION THAT VOCALIZES ‘We look at everyone holistically’: This is the mission at the Lansing Housing Commission (LHC),” said Doug Fleming, executive director, LHC. “We already address clean, safe, and affordable housing, but to ensure stability, LHC and the community must address several other crucial components.”

The need for affordable housing in the Lansing region is a tremendous unmet potential. LHC opened its waitlist for its housing voucher program in August 2020, and within seven days, 2,000 people applied.



LHC has spent the last two years improving its entire portfolio to gain approval by the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. This allows LHC to place significant dollars back into its properties, going towards stable housing and additional resources.

Over the next two years, LHC will invest \$50 million into housing—in turn, investing in the community. The value of these renovations will be one of the largest investments in the Lansing neighborhoods. When completed Mt. Vernon Park, Hildebrandt Park, LaRoy Froh, and South Washington Park locations will undergo complete renovations.

Construction on the Mount Vernon property will begin Nov. 15, and South Washington will follow. By early 2022, over 500 apartments will be completely renovated.

Ryan Robinson, chair of the Board of Commissioners at LHC, notes these properties benefit the entire community and future residents.

“The housing commission intends to be a developer in the City of Lansing going forward. We essentially are providing new housing for older buildings directly in the neighborhoods,” Robinson said. “We are modernizing units—adding dishwashers, central air and meeting green environmental standards.”

Additionally, LHC is taking extensive measures to provide residents assistance such as COVID testing, youth events, recreational activities, gardening opportunities, and more. They are partnering with local organizations like MSU, Capital Area District Library, and Sparrow Health.

“Many agencies do good work regarding wellness, mental health, or finances. However, it isn’t done holistically. LHC moves to connect the circle,” said Fleming. “Rather than only contributing a garden, we partner with MSU to educate residents on how to prepare healthy meals—providing valuable food security.”



LHC also works with Capital Area Housing Partnership (CAHP)—another organization in the community with similar goals. The hope is to transition LHC residents into their own homes by offering finance education led by CAHP. The aim is to never compete with other groups focused on improving the Lansing community— instead work in tandem to create a healthier, more productive environment for everyone.

“If we house someone and their existing needs of mental health or substance abuse are not met, more than likely, we are soon going to evict them,” said Fleming. “This pushes them deeper into the cycle of poverty and homelessness. We, as a community, need to break this cycle.”

How do you lift people out of an economic situation and help them get up the ladder? This is the question Fleming, Robinson, community organizations, and LHC leaders tirelessly work to answer and, more importantly—implement actionable change.

“So many people who are in affordable housing are there for life. We need to create a better system,” said Fleming. “We have a mission to increase income, provide basic human services and safe living environments that will create more self-sufficient residents.”

For additional information or ways to get involved, visit lansbc.org. ■

U.S. Army Veteran Couple Open Eagle Fit Gym and Advocate for Physical and Mental Health Through Exercise

BY: CASSADEE JACKSON, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS

MANY MICHIGAN BUSINESSES were instructed to close their doors and deemed non-essential as an effect of COVID-19. Gyms, specifically, felt substantial adverse effects as they were closed between March 16 through Sept. 9 – a total of 177 days. Veteran-owned and operated Eagle Fit Gym, in Okemos, Mich., noted how the closure of fitness facilities had negative effects on the business owners, and the mental health of the members.

“We never fathomed as business owners that we would be forced to close our doors,” said Trevor Clough, owner of Eagle Fit Gym. “From a business perspective, we were certainly concerned about if the gym would be able to survive the shutdown. We had just finished renovating the new space, purchased brand new equipment, and opened the doors. More importantly, we were concerned for the community members who depend on the gym for so much more than a workout; we were concerned for their well-being.”

Trevor and his wife Natalia are both Army veterans, and both come from families deeply rooted in the military, law enforcement, and public safety. As a way for them to give back to those who sacrifice so much for others, they opened the 24/7 accessible gym to provide an outlet for physical and mental health.

“We believe that exercise is extremely important to overall health, both physically and mentally,” said Clough. “We are a patriotic family and appreciate the opportunity to provide a facility that has been greatly beneficial to the community, especially those with PTSD, anxiety, and other mental health conditions.”



Eagle Fit held a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 6 to celebrate the facility’s grand opening. On March 16, only 10 days later, they were forced to close. As of Sept. 9, Eagle Fit has reopened and is operating at 25% capacity. The club has approximately 75 members and continues to grow. Eagle Fit’s atmosphere is geared to inspire a healthy lifestyle by offering functional fitness equipment, group classes, and personal training.

“We are grateful to be back in business and doing what we can to support the community,” said Clough. “We offer membership discounts to military, public safety, first responders, and teachers. We are grateful to be a part of the Meridian community and hope to become more involved with the township.”

Eagle Fit is located at 3544 Meridian Crossing Drive #100 in Okemos. To learn more about Eagle Fit, call (517) 708-7874, email eaglefitllc@gmail.com, or visit www.eaglefit247.com. ■



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Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

BY: JOSEPH HESS, HAKAN YILDIZ AND THASIN SARDAR

THE GREATER LANSING UNITED NATIONS (UN) ASSOCIATION invites fellow Lansing Regional Chamber members to join in reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges facing the UN in a world with a growing population of over 7.8 billion people, in an environment we have collectively altered in a myriad of negative ways. To facilitate this reflection, consider the following condensation of a report prepared for presentation and action by the 193 nation General Assembly at its annual meeting in September. In doing so, consider the implications for the Greater Lansing community. How can we support at the local level these global goals? They are designed to mitigate the most serious threats to health, peace, and prosperity and accelerate work toward a better, safer world for everyone. (For more information about the UN and its agencies, visit UN.org and UNAUSA.org.)

CONDENSED DECLARATION

We, the heads of state and government representing the peoples of the world, gathered on Sept. 21 to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UN. There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact as the United Nations. Born out of the horrors of World War II, the UN, is a common endeavor for humanity, established to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

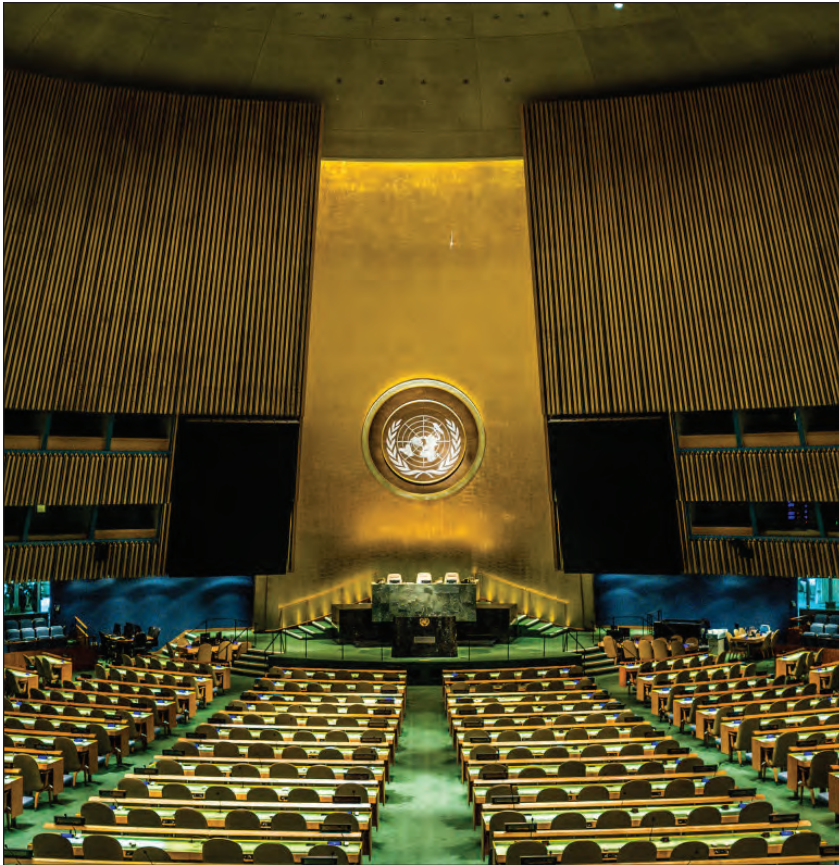
The Charter of the United Nations, which is the cornerstone of international law, has declared the principle of sovereign equality of all States, and respect for their territorial integrity, political independence and the right to self-determination of peoples. It has affirmed the principles of avoiding uninvited UN intervention in the internal affairs of states and facilitated the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. It has advocated that all states refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN.

Our challenges are interconnected and can only be addressed through reinvigorated multilateralism. As we meet, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to reverberate around our world. In a matter of weeks, the pandemic manifested itself as the largest global challenge in the history of the United Nations. Only by working together and in solidarity can we end the pandemic and effectively tackle its consequences. Only together can we build resilience against future pandemics and other global challenges. Multilateralism is not an option, but a necessity as we build toward a more equal, resilient, and sustainable world.

- **We will leave no one behind.** The next ten years, which have been designated as the Decade of Action, will be the most critical of our generation. It is even more important as we build back from the COVID-19 pandemic. We need a strong UN development system and effective collaboration between the United Nations and international financial institutions. Particular attention must be given to people in vulnerable situations.
- **We will protect our planet.** Without more determined action we will continue to impoverish our planet with less biodiversity and fewer natural resources. We will see more environmental threats and climate related challenges, including natural disasters, drought, desertification, food shortages, water scarcity, wildfires, sea-level rise, and depletion of oceans. The time to act is now.



- **We will promote peace and prevent conflicts.** The ongoing armed conflicts and threats against international peace and security must be urgently resolved through peaceful means. To build, keep and sustain peace is one of the main responsibilities of the UN.
- **We will abide by international law and ensure justice.** The purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations and international law remain timeless, universal, and an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
- **We will place women and girls at the center.** Conflicts will not be resolved, and sustainable development will not occur, without the equal and active participation of women at all levels. Human rights can never be fully upheld unless they are also enjoyed by all women and girls.
- **We will build trust.** Growing inequality within and among countries is jeopardizing our efforts to ensure the future we want. Inequality leads to mistrust between countries, and to people's mistrust in institutions of governance. It also contributes to acts of xenophobia, racism, intolerance, hate speech and disinformation.
- **We will improve digital cooperation.** Digital technologies have profoundly transformed society. They offer unprecedented opportunities and new challenges. When improperly or maliciously used, they can fuel divisions within and between countries, increase insecurity, undermine human rights, and exacerbate inequality. The UN can provide a platform for all stakeholders to participate in such deliberations.
- **We will upgrade the United Nations.** The world of today is very different from what it was when the UN was created 75 years ago.



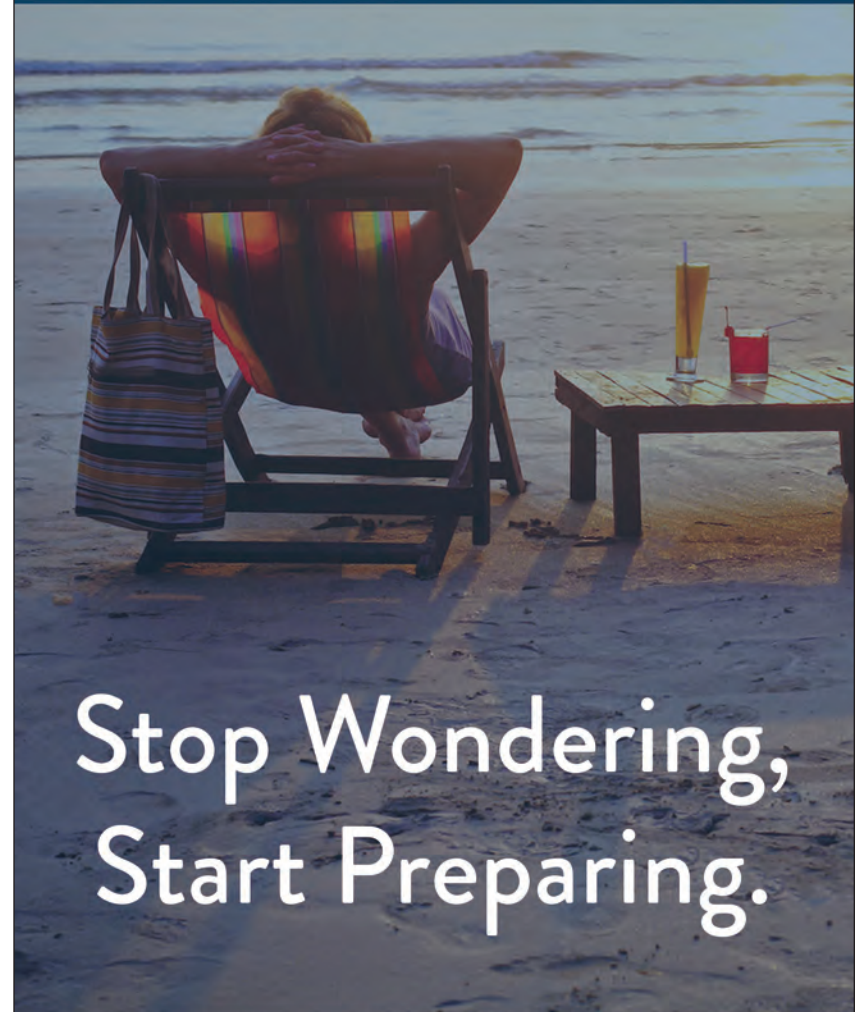
There are more countries, more people, more challenges but also more solutions. Our working methods need to keep pace and revitalize the general assembly and strengthen the Economic and Social Council.

- **We will ensure sustainable financing.** Realizing our aspirations will require sustainable and predictable funding of the organization. We will pay our assessed contribution in full and on time. Measures to better ensure this should be explored. We will further enhance transparency, accountability, and efficient use of resources.
- **We will boost partnerships.** Today's challenges require cooperation not only across borders but also across the whole of society. We have to make the UN more inclusive and engage with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and sub-regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, and parliamentarians, to ensure an effective response to our common challenges.
- **We will listen to and work with youth.** Youth is the missing piece for peace and development. As we benefitted from the foresight of the founders of the United Nations, young people today will have to live with the consequences of our action and inaction.
- **We will be prepared.** The COVID-19 pandemic caught us off-guard. It has served as a wake-up call for improving our preparedness for not only health-related crises but also other challenges and crises.
- **We need to strengthen international cooperation, coordination, and solidarity.** It is important to learn, share experiences and information to reduce risks and make our systems more resilient. While improving our global crisis prevention and response systems, there is an urgent need to accelerate development, production, and equitable and affordable global access to new vaccines, medicines, and medical equipment.

Through reinvigorated global action and by building on the progress achieved in the last 75 years, we will mobilize resources, strengthen our efforts, and show unprecedented political will and leadership in the true spirit of We the Peoples. ■

(The original document is available at <https://undocs.org/A/75/L1>)

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Children's Grief Awareness Day

BY: KRISTINE KUHNERT, DIRECTOR, ELE'S PLACE – CAPITAL REGION

SO MUCH OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT HAS BEEN CANCELED THIS YEAR.

For certain, one thing that has not been canceled is grief. Grief affects all of us at one time or another, including children across the Lansing region. According to research conducted by the JAG Institute, 1 in 13 children in Michigan will experience a parent or sibling's death by the age of 18. This number does not include those children who might be dealing with the death of grandparents, teachers, coaches, and friends.

As we all navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, there are new and additional layers to the grief families are experiencing. Many did not have the opportunity to start to the grieving process with a funeral or healthy goodbye. Perhaps they were not able to be with their person when they died. Grief is isolating, and we are living in times that are already isolating by nature. Now, more than ever, our families need Ele's Place. We must address childhood grief. Unresolved grief can lead to suicidal ideations, using drugs or alcohol to numb pain, trouble sleeping, truancy, and isolation.

Ele's Place exists as a safe place for grieving children to talk about their person who died. While we are currently unable to meet in person, peer to peer support groups continue. We have shifted to online groups and, even though they are different, they are still helping children through the grief process.

Some comments shared by parents whose children attended an online group:

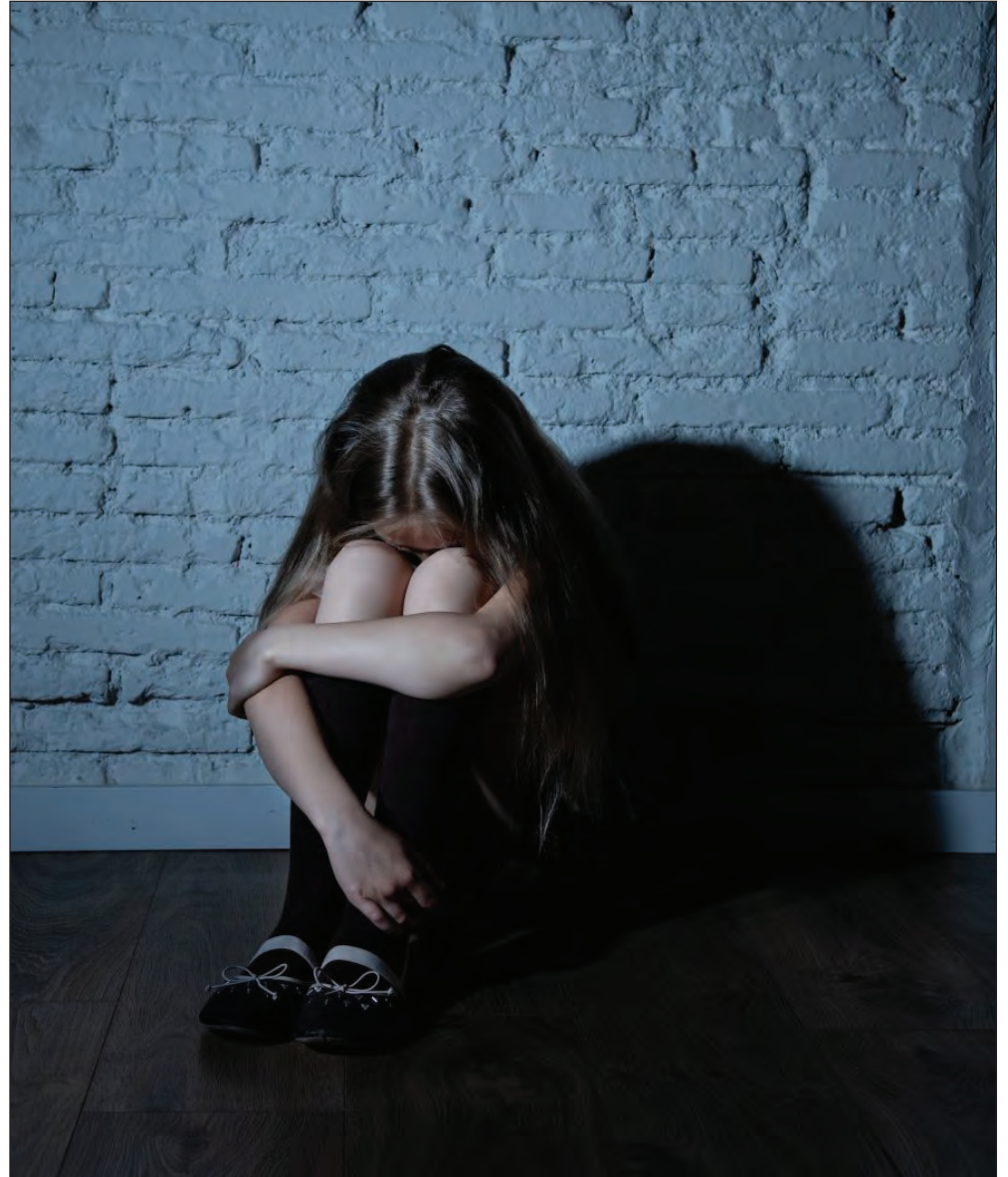
"She loved the virtual meeting. She was happy to be back."

"He said his first night was amazing and he loved it."

"I can't express how happy and open he's been since Ele's Place, even though life has been different lately."

We are grateful to our community for helping us remember the needs of grieving children. As we move into the holiday season, we intend to honor another special day on the calendar; Nov. 19 is Children's Grief Awareness Day. November is National Children's Grief Awareness Month. Ele's Place will take time over the next month to share and educate our community on children's grief and how it impacts our community, and specific ways to help the children who need our support. Several times in November, WKAR will show the documentary "Speaking Grief" including a special online screening on Children's Grief Awareness Day, Nov. 19, which will include a panel moderated by Kelly Koerner, program director, Ele's Place.

The next two months, we hope to be surrounded by family and friends, and hearing the words jolly, cheerful, and merry. To the families at Ele's Place,



these months can be an unsettling time. There is an empty seat at the table. How do they recognize the person who died? Do they continue with the same traditions or start new traditions? There are no right or wrong answers, and it is through attending Ele's Place that our local kids and teens can garner the support they need to navigate these concerns and others. Children feel safe at Ele's Place, asking questions that weigh heavily on their heart. "Dad and I always shopped for mom, who will take me this year?" In a group, peers will help answer tough issues, and provide a place to belong during a time of great isolation.

If you or someone you know is grieving, please call Ele's Place at (517) 482-1315. Our Bereavement Coordinators will help answer questions you may have and provide grief resources including information about our peer-to-peer support groups. Visit our website, www.elsesplace.org, and follow us on social media at Ele's Place – Capital Region.

Unfortunately, grief is not an aspect of life that can be avoided. Grief is the price of love. Thank you to our community for continuing to support the vision of Ele's Place and helping to ensure that no child grieves alone. ■

Tri-County Awarded \$400,000 to Support Greater Lansing Region in Economic Recovery

FUNDING RECEIVED TO INITIATE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY PLANNING FOR THE REGION IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (TRI-COUNTY) has been awarded \$400,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support regional economic recovery. As the Economic Development District (EDD) for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties, Tri-County will utilize this grant to evaluate the economic impacts of the coronavirus in the region and develop strategies to recover from the pandemic effectively.

Signed into law at the end of March, the CARES Act allocated \$1.5 billion to the EDA to offer responsive financial assistance to communities across the country. Of that allocation, \$225 million was designated for the Chicago region, which includes Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. As key partners of the EDA responsible for facilitating targeted economic development activities at the local level, a portion of this funding has been assigned explicitly to EDDs and other federally designated economic development agencies to coordinate coronavirus recovery planning.

“The coronavirus pandemic has caused unprecedented uncertainty in our region and created deep and lasting economic challenges for our communities,” said Tri-County Executive Director Jim Snell. “This federal funding will help us better understand and recover from the impacts of the pandemic on the Greater Lansing region. It will be imperative that we come together to address these economic disruptions and leverage our regional strengths to come back more resilient than ever.”

As organizations and communities across the region work together to mitigate these economic challenges, this funding will allow Tri-County to assess the coronavirus’s effects on the region’s economy and identify gaps

in economic recovery and growth. Tri-County will conduct extensive data analysis to guide the creation of and investment in comprehensive resiliency strategies that will further long-term recovery efforts. Additionally, Tri-County will provide technical assistance and aid to local communities and stakeholders to support informed decision-making to prepare for future potential economic disruptions.

Implementation of Tri-County’s mission to cultivate economic prosperity heavily depends on collaboration with local organizations, regional leaders, and communities. These partnerships play an integral role in developing priorities for the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*. They will now guide Tri-County in determining the actively evolving needs of our region. While the current CEDS contains specific goals and actions that ensure our economy’s strength and vibrancy, Tri-County will integrate the results of the assessments and analyses produced through this grant opportunity to reflect the transformation of regional priorities in light of the pandemic.

“Though the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed significant barriers for our region, it has also provided a unique opportunity to realign our priorities and ensure economic sustainability and prosperity,” said Tri-County Deputy Director Nicole Baumer. “Now is the time to invest in initiatives that will strategically work to address our region’s vulnerabilities, restore our economy, and create stronger communities for our future.”

Activities related to the grant got underway in September 2020 and will continue until the end of the grant period on June 30, 2022. Information and project updates will be available on Tri-County’s website at mitcrpc.org/currentprojects. ■



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NEW HIRES



Decker



Feldpausch



Williams



Wilbur



Dwyer

N g a g e Management of Okemos is pleased to announce it has recently created five new positions in its rapidly growing organization. The Membership and Events Department welcomed two new employees, **Sarah Decker** and **Amber Feldpausch, CMP**. The Marketing and Communications Department has added three new staff members, **Lauren Williams**, **Zach Wilbur**, and **Brendan Dwyer**.



Quisenberry

Burcham Hills has named **Darcy Quisenberry** of Sunfield to the director of The Resident Center at Burcham Hills. Quisenberry brings more than 10 years of experience in assisted living services. She is the former center manager for the Senior Community Care of Michigan PACE Program. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids and has additional training in caring for patients with Alzheimer's Disease and other types of dementia.



Kesto

Fraser Trebilcock is excited to welcome attorney **Klint Kesto** to the firm, where he will work primarily in the Lansing office, focusing on litigation and general business law. Immediately prior to joining the firm, Klint worked for his own law firm, handled general civil and criminal matters, and had a government consulting practice.



Banks



Lawrence

Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting P.C. is pleased to announce the addition of **Amia A. Banks** and **Gabrielle C. Lawrence** to their firm. Ms. Banks joined the firm in March 2020 as an associate attorney, specializing in estate planning, corporate law, and regulatory matters. Ms. Lawrence joined the firm in July 2020. She specializes in estate planning, probate, trust administration, and elder law.

AWARDS

MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) is pleased to announce it received five MAC awards from the Marketing Association of Credit Unions (MAC). The Credit Union received the following awards: MSUFCU Visa Signature Credit Card in the Product Development category; MSUFCU Good for Business Booklet in the Business Development category; MSUFCU Your Refund Plus Some in the Direct Mail Single category; MSUFCU Credit Score Handout in the Image Enhancement category and MSUFCU Youth Newsletters in the Newsletters category.

DISTINCTIONS

MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) was honored as a National Best and Brightest Company to Work For® — alongside 183 organizations from across the country — out of 1,700 nominations. This is the fourth consecutive year MSUFCU has received this award. The Best and Brightest Company to Work For program honors organizations committed to excellence in operations and employee enrichment, leading to increased productivity and financial performance.

Rehmann, a fully integrated financial services and advisory firm, ranked nationally among the 2020 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for in the Nation and Best and Brightest Companies in Michigan for Wellness by the National Association for Business Resources. The recognition marks the third consecutive year Rehmann has earned the overall ranking and the fourth consecutive year the firm has achieved the wellness ranking.

Seven attorneys from the Lansing office of Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C. have been selected to the 2020 Michigan Super Lawyers list while two others have been selected as "Rising Stars." 2020 Michigan Super Lawyers; **Charles E. Barbieri**, **Richard C. Kraus**, **Scott L. Mandel**, **Douglas A. Mielock**, **Patricia J. Scott**, **Webb A. Smith**, and **Scott A. Storey**. 2020 Rising Stars; **Zachary W. Behler** and **Allison M. Collins**.

Each year, 25 students are selected as Mason Promise Scholars as they finish grade 5. These Scholars are traditionally honored at a ceremony held in May. The Promise Scholarship Board recognized the inducted members of the class of 2027 with a drive-up ceremony at **Mason Middle School**. Congratulations to the 2020 Mason Promise Scholars; **Emma Baker**, **Haidyn Bedes**, **Olivia**

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Fifty institutions made Credit Union Journal's annual ranking of the Best Credit Unions to Work For in the nation, and LAFCU is one of the 50. In partnership with Best Companies Group, Credit Union Journal determined the top 50 credit unions based on a comprehensive employee survey and analysis of employer benefits, workplace policies, and practices.

MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) has received the 2020 Community Spark Award

that recognizes banks and credit unions for making a difference in their communities by supporting small businesses. MSUFCU launched its #MSUFCUEatsLocal giveaway in March to support local restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Community Spark Award, MSUFCU was able to choose an organization to receive \$250. The Credit Union chose *Weekend Survival Kits*, which mobilizes community volunteers to donate items and pack kits, providing food on the weekends for children in grades K-5 in Greater Lansing area schools.

The Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is garnering national attention again for excellence and leadership in economic development. The latest accolades were awarded to LEAP president and CEO, **Bob Trezise**, selected as one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers for 2020 by Consultant Connect. Consultant Connect is a leading consulting agency focused on bridging the gap between economic developers and site consultants, a key relationship that defines the success of business attraction efforts. The economic development professionals selected for this list were nominated by their colleagues in both the economic development industry and the site consultant community for excellent practices, innovation, and success in building the communities they serve.

Rehmann, a fully integrated financial services and advisory firm, has been named a Best and Brightest Company to Work For® in Metro Detroit for the 18th consecutive year. Selected companies are chosen based on their ability to distinguish themselves by having the most innovative and thoughtful human resources approaches.



Padgett

Shaunna Padgett, First National Bank of Michigan vice president, strategic & operating manager was awarded the Community Bankers of Michigan's 2020 Rising Star Award. The award was established by the Community Bankers of Michigan in 2019 to recognize an outstanding banker, whose involvement and dedication signifies the best in community banking. The award is given to one banker annually. This award celebrates an individual whose achievements in banking and community involvement have earned the respect of bank leadership and their community. Earlier this year Padgett was named a 40 under 40 award winner by the ICBA.

PROMOTIONS

Dewpoint announced that **Bob Bartholomew** has been appointed as the new president and CEO of the company. A key member of Dewpoint's leadership team since 2015, Bartholomew will

succeed Ken Theis and assume all responsibilities. After almost ten years of successfully leading Dewpoint, Theis decided to retire.



Williams

Burcham Hills announced **Alesha Williams** of Haslett's promotion to director of life enrichment, including programming for recreation therapy, wellness, fitness, transportation, and volunteer coordination. Williams joined Burcham Hills in 2012 as a certified therapeutic recreation specialist and was soon promoted to manager of recreation therapy.

Clark Schaefer Hackett has announced **Elizabeth Chapman** has been promoted to manager in the East Lansing office. **Evan Campbell**, **Ben MacGown**, **Joseph McNamara**, and **Daniel Norris** have been promoted to senior. The firm also announced the hiring of Dean Beier in the East Lansing office.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES



Judd

Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center's director of quality assurance, **Tom Judd**, has been appointed president of the Michigan Brain Injury Provider Council (MBIPC) Board of Directors. MBIPC has been serving providers in professions related to brain injury rehabilitation since 1987. MBIPC's purpose is to enhance its members' ability to provide high-quality, ethical rehabilitation, healthcare, and related services to people with a brain injury.



Sharangpani



Saldana

The Davies Project is pleased to welcome **Dr. Aditi Sharangpani** and **Arianna Saldana** to its board of

directors. Dr. Sharangpani is the medical director and attending physician in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Sparrow Hospital. She is excited to be part of The Davies Project as it gets children to the care they need for long term wellness. Arianna Saldana is a community development specialist II at the MSU Federal Credit Union. She joined the board because she wants to be part of the solution for addressing the overlooked issue of transportation to medical care that disproportionately affects those on the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum, and support the health outcomes of our community's children.

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Fleener

Yvonne Fleener, executive director of **Helping Hands Respite Care**, was reappointed by Governor Whitmer to the Statewide Independent Living Council and elected to serve as the Council's chairperson. Helping Hands Respite Care is a nonprofit organization providing home care services and adult day services to seniors with memory loss and adult with disabilities.



Lovejoy

Junior Achievement of Mid-Michigan (JAMM) welcomes **Dan Lovejoy** of Delta Dental of Michigan to its Board of Directors. Dan shared that "the opportunity to impact, help and learn from our young people is what makes me very excited to participate with Junior Achievement. I like the idea of using our real-world experiences and bringing that into the classroom to build on the education they are already receiving".

PEOPLE NEWS

Officials from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. Twenty students from Eaton and Ingham County High Schools made the list. Congratulations to these students on this accomplishment. 2021 National Merit semifinalists from the Lansing region include: Dansville High School, **Elizabeth R. Troia**; East Lansing High School, **Eliza N. Lane**; Grand Ledge High School, **Cooper J. Evans**; Leslie High School, **Chase S. Lewis**; Okemos High School, **Abigail V. Bartley**, **Riddhi Bhattacharya**, **Baran Demir**, **Jayden D. Elliott**, **Ravdeep S. Grewal**, **Fergal B. Hennessy**, **Eric J. Huang**, **Taerin Kim**, **Joonbum Lee**, **Sophia Lee**, **Maxim Q. Li**, **Sophia Y. Liu**, **Ian R. Loree**, **Rayan Mughal** and **Brigthy Renli**; Williamston High School, **Ethan Egger**. All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 7,600 National Merit Scholarship awards worth more than \$30 million, to be awarded in spring 2021.

COMPANY NEWS

As the fall 2020 semester reaches the two-month mark, **Lansing Community College** continues to emphasize remote learning and work, except for limited hands-on classes and essential workers on campus. The college made the decision to focus on online learning to ensure the wellbeing of the campus community remains their top priority. Switching to an online-only environment in March has not come without its challenges, but students and employees have adapted well. In addition to following all college wide safety standards, every face-to-face or hybrid course was required to develop a safety plan that aligns

with **LCC's Business Resumption Plan**. Depending on the specific needs of their course, faculty and staff have implemented protocols like wearing additional PPE, regularly disinfecting equipment and the classroom, and scheduling students to maintain limited numbers within the labs.

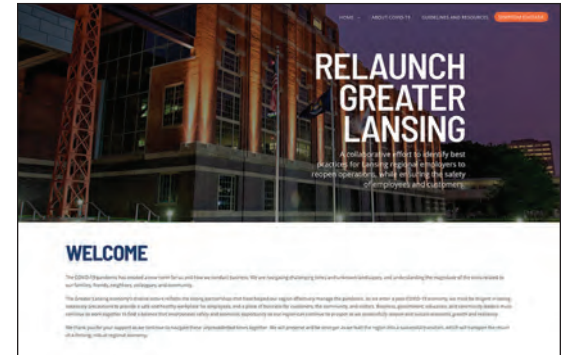
Mason Public Schools (MPS) celebrated the completion of the tennis court construction project on Sept. 17. In March, the MPS Board approved plans to move forward with the renovation and expansion of the existing tennis courts located at Mason High School. Utilizing sinking fund dollars, the District began renovation of the eight existing courts and built four additional courts to accommodate the competition level of the Mason High School tennis teams.

Capital Area United Way and **InstaShield** will be distributing 10,000 face shields to area nonprofits and schools. InstaShield is an affordable, convenient face shield that attaches to your favorite baseball cap. The company is making this donation part of its Million-Shield Challenge.



First National Bank of Michigan (FNBM) announced the Oct. 5 relocation of their Loan Production office and opening of their new branch to 101 S. Washington Square, Suite 100 in Lansing. The new FNBM branch and office space is located on the corner of Michigan Ave. and Washington Square. The Lansing location is the sixth branch for First National Bank of Michigan, which has three branches in Kalamazoo County, one in downtown Grand Rapids, and one in Holland.

Lansing Community College has launched a series of Courageous Conversations: A Bridge to Undoing Racism led by Dr. Tonya Bailey, chief diversity officer, LCC. On the heels of an historic resolution adopted unanimously last June by the LCC Board of Trustees to address racial injustice through equity and inclusion, the college is moving forward with hard, but necessary courageous conversations. Using a dialogue style format, participants interact in conversations, conduct self-reflections, active listening, and group learning to discuss often difficult topics while making deliberate strides toward being a "brave space" to discuss race, equity, and inclusion.



Tandem Studios, a creative marketing agency based in Lansing, is proud to announce the launch of the **RELAUNCH Greater Lansing** website, www.relaunchgreaterlansing.com. Designed and developed in partnership with the the **RELAUNCH Greater Lansing: Economic Rehabilitation Task Force**, the website helps businesses and organizations in the Lansing region navigate through and adjust to new realities brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about Tandem Studios, visit www.gotandem.biz.



Mason Public Schools officially cut the ribbon on both Alaiedon and North Aurelius Elementary buildings after 15 months of construction. Both projects, which were funded through the District's \$69.7 million bond, broke ground in April 2019. Improvements to both schools included a new multi-purpose room, additional classrooms, and a new secure entry. Mechanical and electrical upgrades, layout changes and remodeling were also included in the project. In addition, site improvements and expanded parking will make student pick-up and drop-off safer when in-person instruction resumes. The completion of these two projects wrap up Phase 1 of a three-phase capital improvement project for the District. Phase 2 of

the project will primarily focus on the renovation of Steele Elementary. A District committee has been meeting to plan for the renovation of Steele Elementary for several months.

The COVID-19 pandemic over the past six months has caused disruption everywhere but has been an especially difficult struggle for seniors as many have had to continue to shelter in place, away from their friends and families. To help supplement some of the services that seniors are provided, the **Foster Swift** law firm has created a free 'Elder Organizer' digital notebook to provide seniors and their caretakers with a toolkit that helps organize doctors' appointments, medications, and more that can be shared online. The Elder Organizer toolkit, along with articles and other elder resources can be found on Foster Swift's Elder Law blog at mielderlawblog.com, where visitors can also subscribe to the RSS feed to see recent posts or to receive free news updates by email.

Ngage Management of Okemos is pleased to announce the addition of two new clients to their portfolio. The Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) joined Ngage as a full-service client in July. MSTA is an over 1,000-member association formed in 1953 and seeks to stimulate, support and provide leadership for the improvement

of science education throughout Michigan. PACE Association of Michigan joined Ngage as an event-only client. PACE is an organization dedicated to the expansion of comprehensive health care services to the frail elderly through the Program of All-inclusive Care for Elderly.

Tropical Smoothie of Lansing has expanded and opened a new operation in Indiana. This is a great opportunity for Tropical Smoothie Café to grow by serving the Grand Park Sports Campus which is a sports complex located in Westfield, Indiana. The 400-acre (160 ha) park features 26 baseball and softball diamonds, 31 multipurpose fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse.



Lansing Community College joined the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation tribute to firefighters who died in the line of duty. LCC lit the Granger Clock Tower on the Downtown

Campus and the dome at West Campus red in honor of some of America's bravest heroes. As dusk turned to dark, Sept. 27 – Oct. 4, LCC landmarks glowed red with respect to fallen firefighters, first responders, and their families. There have been 61 brave souls lost nationwide this year, with 17 deaths being attributed to COVID-19.

Martin Commercial Properties, a leading privately owned real estate services and development company, has signed a lease for HD Ventures LLC at 16405 Grove Road in Lansing, Mich. The new user is Yoli, Inc. The property is located just off West Grand River Ave. and 2.5 miles east of the I-96/I-69 interchange. The 6,723-square-foot center is a single user building built in 2018. It includes 1,029 square feet of office space as well as multiple loading docks, steel roof and reflective steel ceiling, and LED high-efficiency low-profile interior lighting. Yoli, Inc. has the option of immediate occupancy of the industrial structure.

Educators and advisers to Michigan's longest-serving governor celebrated Gov. William G. Milliken's service to K-12 education in a special Legacy Forum online on Tuesday, Oct. 6. **Michigan State University's Institute for Public**

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Policy and Social Research, in conjunction with MSU's Office of K-12 Outreach, hosted a Gov. William G. Milliken Legacy Forum on school finance and educational policy. Milliken served from January 1969 to January 1983. He died in October 2019. The session featured educational voices from the Milliken-era to current times and reviewed the state's historical developments considering current policies and concerns regarding school finance and racial inequities.

Martin Commercial Properties, a leading privately-owned real estate services and development company has signed a lease for HD Ventures LLC at 16350 Felton Road in Lansing. The new user is CleaRESULT Consulting. The property is located just off West Grand River Ave. and two-and-a-half miles east of the I-96/I-69 interchange. The 5,000-square-foot center is a single-user building that includes 1,000 square feet of office space and 4,000 square feet of warehouse space. CleaRESULT Consulting has the option of immediate occupancy of the industrial structure.

MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) has launched The Lab at MSUFCU, which will bring agility, collaboration, drive, and innovation together to turn ideas into advanced financial technologies. The Lab at MSUFCU was established to identify, create, and execute innovation opportunities at the Credit Union. By devoting resources to cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset, collaborative ideas can be generated that lead to pilots and new technology, products and services for members and employees.



Miller

Stanulis

Otten

Sparrow Medical Group has opened a new family medicine practice, responding to an urgent need identified by their communities and caregivers. Sparrow Medical Group East Lansing opened at the Sparrow Health Science Pavilion, 2900 Hannah Blvd., Suite 104, East Lansing. The practice will be led by **Marissa Miller, D.O.**, an outstanding family medicine physician who is transferring from the SMG Potterville practice; nurse practitioner **Katie Stanulis**; and physician assistant **Mike Line. Todd Otten, D.O.**, is accepting new patients at SMG Potterville starting Oct. 26 as he transfers from his Sparrow Eaton Hospital locations in Charlotte and Eaton Rapids.

MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) October Public Policy Forum focused on K-12 education's future during and

after the coronavirus pandemic. This IPPSR Forum featured **Dr. Katharine Strunk**, EPIC's faculty director, to review that research. **Keith Smith, Ph.D.**, superintendent of Kingsley Area Schools, and **Nikolai Vitti, Ph.D.**, superintendent of Detroit Public Schools Community District who spoke to their districts' experiences and share their unique perspectives. The COVID-19 crisis led to near-nationwide spring closure of K-12 public schools. IPPSR, in partnership with Michigan State University's Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC), are jointly tracking crisis responses across all 50 states. They have constructed a searchable set of data to reflect educational approaches across the nation. As states and educators made fast-moving changes, IPPSR and EPIC began following K-12 responses first across Michigan and later across the country.



The 13th Annual Coalition for College and Career Readiness (C3R) Summit was held virtually on Thursday, Oct. 13. **Lansing Community College's** C3R is a coalition comprised of individuals and organizations in the tri-county areas of Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton Counties that work together to increase the college and career readiness of high school graduates. The 2020 C3R Summit focused on embedded academic supports in a virtual environment and was moderated by **Michele Strasz**, executive director for Capital Area College Access Network (CapCAN). This year's panelists were all from LCC and included **Zack Kowalski**, academic success coach; students **Jayla Knox**, **Mason Moberg**, and **Eric Pouncil**, and **Jill Reglin** integrated English faculty and learning commons writing studio lead faculty. LCC President **Dr. Steve Robinson** presented the keynote address.

Eaton Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) administration and Board of Education have begun renewing a five-year strategic plan for the District. Eaton RESA supports six local school districts and four public school academies, each of which may not have the resources needed to provide all the services its students require on their own. Eaton RESA offers support and programming in general education, special

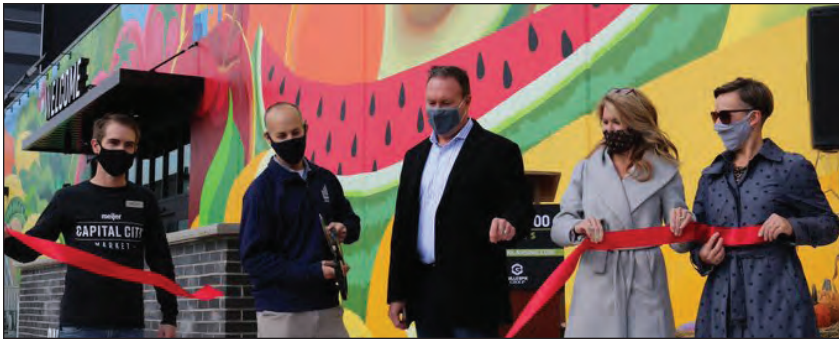
education, career, and technical education, early childhood education, and prevention services. The purpose of the process will be to examine the District's current strategic plan, including the mission, vision, beliefs, goals, and strategies to continue to provide and enhance educational opportunities through programs and services provided by Eaton RESA.

CASE Credit Union announced they are partnering with Transformation GEMS (Gifted Entrepreneur with Millionaire Status) to provide microgrants to women of color. Grant funding will be provided by the Michigan Credit Union League, Transformation GEMS and CASE. To qualify, the person of color must identify as a woman or use the pronouns she/her/hers and is starting her own business but lacks some funding to complete the process. Jeffrey Benson, president and CEO of CASE Credit Union, said the grants are a way to support local business owners and the Lansing area.

Comcast Corporation (NASDAQ: CMCSA) launched Comcast RISE, an initiative created to help empower small businesses hard hit by COVID-19. The Comcast RISE program will help thousands of small businesses over the next three years. The multi-faceted program offers grants, marketing, and technology upgrades, including media campaigns and connectivity, computer, and voice equipment, and free marketing insights to all applicants.

The Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau has several local hotels that are offering "Work from Hotel" packages for people working from home but need a day away to get work done. Participating in the program are: Clarion Pointe Hotel, East Lansing; Comfort Inn, Lansing; Crowne Plaza Lansing West; Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Lansing; Holiday Inn Express, Okemos-University Area; Hyatt Place, Lansing-East; Quality Suites Hotel; Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol; Resident Inn, Lansing West; SpringHill Suites; and TownPlace Suites by Marriott. More information can be accessed at www.lansing.org/hotels/work-from-hotel/#rate.

ARUtility, the augmented reality utility locating and asset management platform, has another win in its impressive portfolio with acceptance into Plug and Play Tech Center's highly competitive program. The president of ARUtility, Joseph Eastman, made the announcement and emphasized the importance of the program in the company's continued growth: "Working with Plug and Play will help immensely in promoting our ground-breaking, safety-focused technology. It will benefit everyone involved, including the partners who will ultimately manifest a much safer, cost-saving method of work in the field." More information is available at www.arutility.com/news/article/25. ■



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) was so excited to officially welcome our new neighbors in the Stadium District on Oct. 21, Capital City Market, and Block600 Lofts! Joining us to cut the ribbon for this fantastic addition to downtown Lansing was Pat Gillespie with the Gillespie Group, City of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, and Mitchell Cook, general manager for the Capital City Market. **BLOCK600** transforms the livability in the Capital City, providing easier access to groceries, fresh produce, and the amenities and accommodations that Lansing needs to thrive.



Doggy Day Care and Spa, located at 5325 W. Mt. Hope Hwy in Lansing, celebrated its 20th anniversary on Monday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doggy Day Care employees and several LRCC employees enjoyed an afternoon at the flagship Lansing location, with plenty of cookies and cute puppies!



A special thank you to our sponsors for the October Member Mixer: **Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center** (virtual sponsor) and **American Fifth Spirits** (support sponsor). It was another fun evening of connections and community, and we are proud to provide a platform for those relationships to flourish. We encourage businesses to attend and engage in these intentional networking opportunities. Our next virtual Member Mixer will be hosted on Nov. 10. Registration is available on the LRCC website.



October 14 was a beautiful day to celebrate the grand opening of the downtown Lansing branch of **First National Bank of Michigan**, located at 101 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. The new FNB Michigan branch is full-service and also includes the relocation of their Loan Production office. "Opening the branch in the newly remodeled building enables us to offer the community and our customers an exceptional banking experience. The 4,200 square foot space will allow us to expand and continue to grow the Bank," said Patty Barnas, Market President. The Lansing location is the sixth branch for First National Bank of Michigan, a 14-year-old locally owned and operated bank has a community banking focus delivering local commercial and personal banking products and services.

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