From the President...

Community Outreach – First Steps

In my first 100 days in the IEDC President’s chair, one message has been abundantly clear - we need to dedicate time and resources to reaching out to our entire County. From meetings in Bigfork to Nashwauk and communities and organizations in between, we are just starting to build a schedule of outreach.

We would love to meet with your community or group so please don’t hesitate to reach out to our team! If you are interested in a presentation on our organization, or perhaps on a specific Economic or Community Development topic, we are only a phone call away.

Strategic Planning

Over the past several months, IEDC has been working with the Praxis Strategy Group to develop an updated Strategic Plan. The efforts include research, focus groups and Board Sessions. We asked you to bring your perspective to the table, and you responded. More than 60 individuals from around Itasca County and beyond participated in one of the 10 Focus Groups. Thank you very much for your candid feedback.

Next, your feedback will be compiled into a detailed report for our IEDC Board Members to utilize in their final Strategic Planning Session. This approach builds upon our desire to ensure we are meeting the needs of all of our communities, both large and small. Economic Development has a broad definition, and our Board will be using your feedback to help define IEDC’s goals and outcomes as well as shape our leadership in the future.

Look for a high-level overview of our Strategic Plan in the 2nd Quarter Newsletter.

CEDA

The Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) is a new partner for IEDC and Itasca County. Thanks to our partnership with Itasca County, we are able to target several key areas of research and outreach in 2019:

- Site & Asset Mapping – A catalog of commercial sites and buildings throughout our County that will be listed on the new IEDC website as well as being utilized to build development strategies moving forward
- Commercial Rent Study – Targeted research to support the Small Business Development Center in their work with new and existing businesses
- Target Outreach to Rural Itasca County (Project Support) – CEDA Staff will be working directly with our communities to define areas we can provide assistance. They will help identify, facilitate and monitor projects with a strong community team leading the way.

CEDA is one of the many ways IEDC will engage with communities and partners throughout the County. New CEDA Team Member Sarah Carling will be starting the end of April. Expect to hear more about CEDA and our Projects throughout the year.

COMING SOON ...

IEDC’s New Website will be revealed in the 2nd Quarter! We are looking for great quality photos of Business, Economic and Community Development from throughout the County. Please contact Teri Heikkila for details.

WELCOME!! - IEDC would like to welcome the following new members to its Board of Directors:

- Mike Auger, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Gaming Director
- Katie Glorvigen Tierney, Managing Partner, Glorvigen, Tierney, Lind & Co.
- Megan Kellin, Owner, be.Media House
- Karine Woodman, CEO, 24hr Bookkeeper, Inc.
Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Updates

2019 YTD SBDC Update:

- Consulted with 59 unique clients
- Spent 319 consulting hours with those clients for an average of 5.4 hours per client
- Assisted 1 client in starting a new business
- Recorded capital investment of over $3.1million
- Helped clients create or maintain 34 jobs in the Itasca Area!

To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@itascadv.org or call 218.326.9411