



Northern Lakes
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



Annual ACTIVITIES REPORT

2016

“Providing resources for communities and entrepreneurs to create and retain jobs in Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet Counties.”

A “one year snapshot” of Economic Development projects is an unrealistic expectation.

Often these projects are long term and span multiple years. We commend those communities and companies that continue to have confidence and foresight to invest in business and community expansions and recognize the many NLEA investors and partner organizations that collaborate and cooperate on a daily basis to support both public and private projects. Over the past five years:

- 180 business and community development projects completed;
- \$100,064,847 in private investment;
- \$11,178,234 in local unit of government investment;
- \$13,680,221 in grant funding;
- \$278,203,298 increase in taxable value;
- 729 new jobs; and
- 2,257 retained jobs.
- NLEA Region employment rate has increased from 89% to 96%



NLEA summer interns were able to create 30 career profiles focusing on in demand “Hot Jobs” in Northwest Michigan thanks to a grant from DTE Energy Foundation. These profiles will be used to address the shortage of workers with the skills required to fulfill market needs. Check out the full profiles at www.northernlakes.net/hotjobs

NLEA collaborated with MI Works!, North Central Michigan College, Baker College and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to identify and facilitate 13 local company applications for training funds. Companies committed to investing over \$5,600,000 to train 513 employees and receive over \$463,000 in state grant funds.



EJ, a global leader in manufacturing, is dedicated to keeping production in Northern Michigan by building a new \$125,000,000 state of the art, environmentally friendly foundry in Warner Township, Antrim County. Keeping the foundry in Northern Michigan will allow for the retention of 350 family supporting base jobs.



CORE PARTNERS



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Northern Lakes
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

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2016 IMPACT INDICATORS

37 Successful Economic Development Projects

19 Business Development Projects

18 Community Development Projects

\$21,044,624 Total Investment

\$10.6 M in Private Investments

\$7.3 M in Grant Funds

\$3.1 M in Local Unit of Government Investments

146 New Jobs & 455 Retained Jobs

96% NLEA Region Employment Rate

NLEA Outreach:

Produced 18 monthly publications for 2,605 stakeholders;

Presented 24 workshops and events with 982 participants;

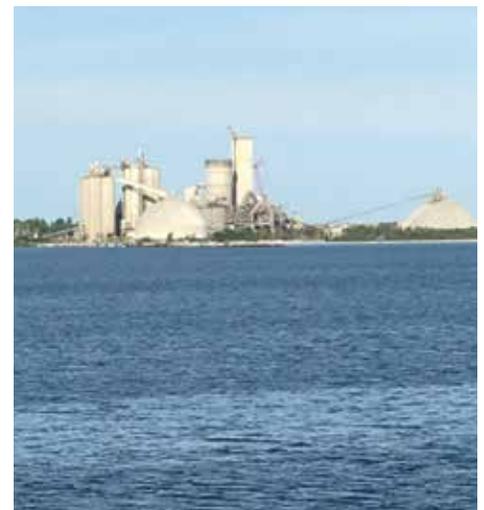
Assisted 133 business and community clients;

Maintained 10 Local Business Resource Centers

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided ongoing assistance throughout the year on 41 potential community and business projects which anticipate 843 new/retained jobs, and investment of over \$350 million over the next several years.
- Implemented pro-active retention visits with 84 area manufacturers and major employers with various partners from organizations including Michigan Economic Development Corporation, MI Works!, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- The NLEA Broadband Consortium continued to collaborate with community leaders to coordinate projects that encourage greater broadband capacity. In 2016, the consortium assisted with various fiber projects throughout Emmet and Charlevoix Counties, and began engineering plans for future projects.
- As part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, NLEA worked with our regional planning organization and core partner, Networks Northwest, on various projects including: US-131 Economic Strategy, facilitating DDA Forums throughout the region, and providing administrative services to the M-119 Heritage Route committee.
- Eleven businesses participated with the MEDC Exporting Assistance Program receiving \$63,000 in financial resources leading to \$10,238,424 in annual export assisted revenue.

Votorantim Cimentos' St. Marys Cement plant, located in Charlevoix Township, is an excellent example of growth and retaining base job employers. The company is currently implementing a \$130,000,000 facility upgrade while providing over 100 family-supporting jobs and increasing tax base.





NLEA took to the streets this summer hosting a luncheon roadshow for stakeholders in each of our four (4) counties. Representatives from the local municipalities, government, businesses and community members enjoyed a hotdog cookout while learning more about NLEA programs and resources.



NLEA assisted the City of Cheboygan in the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities Program in identifying three desired sites and developing a unique vision for each. They now have a strong marketing tool to encourage targeted development in their community.



Catt Development completed a \$4,000,000 renovation of four commercial spaces on S. Lake Street in Boyne City with the help of a \$500,000 CDBG grant. With two new businesses on the horizon, the project is currently home to 7 Monks Taproom and Northern Michigan Sports Medicine Center.



NLEA leads regular retention visits to local employers to discuss opportunities, challenges and potential future projects. The program targets 130 companies providing base jobs in our region. Agencies involved in the visits are NLEA, MI Works! and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.



NLEA, in partnership with Chemical Bank, coordinated and facilitated quarterly Growth Company CEO Forums hosted by local employers. Each forum included peer-to-peer networking, a facility tour, and keynote speaker on topics of interest to growth stage company CEO's. In 2016, 33 executives participated, representing 19 companies.



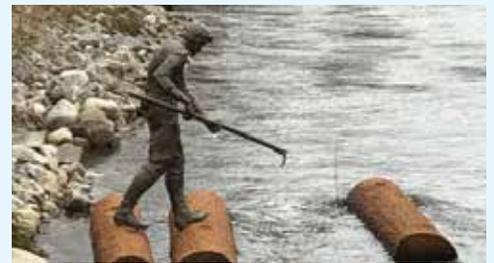
Provided leadership to MSU Extension Connecting Entrepreneurial Programs; CEC Bootcamp in Sault Ste. Marie and the state-wide CEC Conference in Port Huron. The CEC conferences welcomed over 180 people from more than 50 Michigan communities, five states, and two countries.



Four hundred people gathered to celebrate the economic development partnerships that thrive throughout the NLEA region. Local and state government officials, community and business leaders, area entrepreneurs, chamber members, educational leaders and everyone involved in the economic vitality of our region came together for networking and the presentation of exciting awards and special recognition.



It only takes one push to serve as an economic catalyst in a community, and with over \$4,000,000 invested, Cannonball Development in East Jordan has done just that. Leaning on Blue Smoke Restaurant as their anchor tenant and two more retail spaces available for lease, the project is bringing dozens of new jobs and growth downtown.



NLEA assisted communities in three (3) successful MEDC crowdfunding grant projects totaling \$143,700 in private and community investment, matched by \$113,000 in grant funding. The projects included a new boathouse for the Village of Alanson's Sanctuary Park; a life-size bronze sculpture in the Boyne City river called "The Last River Draw"; and 9.5 miles of new mountain biking and hiking trails at Boyne City's Avalanche Mountain nature preserve.

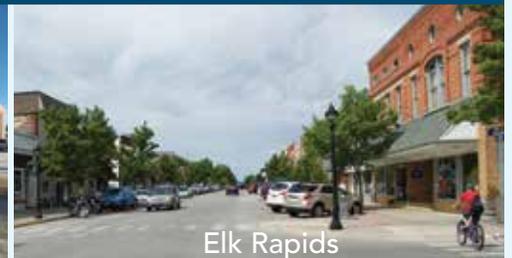
NORTHERN MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES



Bellaire



East Jordan



Elk Rapids

For the first time in NLEA history, we were able to provide DDA Professional Services to three (3) communities in our region. The services encompassed all the daily and ongoing activities of a DDA director including building relationships with stakeholders, communications through print and social media, and individual activities from Development and TIF plans to move the downtowns forward.

INVESTORS/MEMBERS

AKT Peerless	Chase Bank	Harbor House Publishers	Moran Iron Works
Antrim County	Cheboygan Area Chamber	Harbor Springs Chamber	Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital
Baker College	Cheboygan, City of	Harbor Springs, City of	Networks Northwest
Banks Township	Cheboygan County	Huntington Bank	North Central Michigan College
Bear Creek Township	Chemical Bank	Indian River Chamber	Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
Bellaire, Village of	Circuit Controls Corporation	Industrial Arts Institute	Northwest MI Industrial Association
Bellaire DDA, Village of	Citizens National Bank	Industrial Magnetics, Inc.	Onaway, City of
Blue Cross Blue Shield	CMS Energy-Consumers Power	Inverness Township	Otwell Mawby PC
Boyne Area Chamber	DTE Energy Foundation	ITC Holdings Corporation	Pellston, Village of
Boyne Ave. Greenhouse Florist	East Jordan Chamber	Jervis B. Webb Company	Petoskey, City of
Boyne City, City of	East Jordan, City of	Kilwins Quality Confections	Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation
Boyne Mountain	East Jorda DDA	Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians	Petoskey Regional Chamber
C2AE	Edgewater Design Group	Little Traverse Township	PNC Bank
Cannonball LLC	EJ	McLaren Northern Michigan	Rehmann
Catt Development	Elk Rapids Chamber	Mackinaw City Chamber	Resort Township
Central Lake, Village of	Elk Rapids DDA	Mackinaw City, Village of	Ryba Marine Construction
Char-Em ISD	Elk Rapids, Village of	Mancelona, Village of	Short's Brewing Company
Charlevoix Agency	Ellsworth, Village of	MDC Contracting, LLC	St. Marys Cement
Charlevoix Area Chamber	Emmet County	Michigan Economic Development Corporation	Straits Area Federal Credit Union
Charlevoix, City of	Fifth Third Bank	Michigan Works!	The Brook
Charlevoix County	Forest Township	Michigan Scientific Corporation	Triune Specialty Trailers
Charlevoix County Community Foundation	4Front Credit Union	Mitchell Graphics	Vistage Michigan
Charlevoix State Bank	Granger & Associates	MSU Extension	
Charlevoix Township	Great Lakes Energy		
	Harbor/Brenn Agencies		

www.northernlakes.net

VILLAGE OF BAY HARBOR



Northern Michigan will soon be home to a \$25,000,000 state-of-the-art, 500 seat performing arts center. The Great Lakes Center for the Arts in Bay Harbor will offer year-round performances in music, theater, film, and dance. Look for the Grand Opening in July 2018.

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