

October 18, 2017

TO: Fox Cities Regional Partnership Investors, Council and Partners

FROM: Bob Mundt
President/CEO

On behalf of the Fox Cities Regional Partnership Council, the Chamber Board of Directors and the staff I want to take this opportunity to Thank You for your investment in the Partnership and your patience in helping us develop the next phase of our economic development efforts here in the Fox Cities and around the region. The following is an investor update on Partnership activities and our plans moving forward. Please contact me with any questions you may have and again Thank You for your support.

Vice President for Economic Development Search:

We have identified five primary candidates for the VP position and will begin the interview process the week of October 30. We hope to have a selection made soon after with a new VP in place shortly after that. In the interim, our current staff of Rob Peterson and Beth Pritzl are working hard to make sure we continue to move the ball forward.

Business Retention & Expansion:

Rob Peterson and I continue to conduct Retention & Expansion visits on dozens of area companies and have concluded nearly 100 visits to companies vetting their needs and filling those requests for resources, information and key research for them to address their issues.

We are working with Appleton Coated and the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, the County and our partners to conduct activities that will assist in the potential sale of the facility to a buyer over the next 90 days. In an effort to be prepared for the alternative, we are working with Bay Area Workforce in planning a targeted job fair on October 24 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Darboy Club. Our hope is to re-employ as many of these workers as possible quickly. FVTC is also working with employers on potential retraining assistance. We have also responded to over 100 requests for research and information from our partners and companies looking for demographic and business information.

Business Attraction:

We continue to answer Requests for Proposals from companies expressing interest in locating or expanding in the Fox Valley. Working through New North and the state, we have responded to numerous RFI requests and continue to follow up with them.

Talent:

We continue to work with our partners in addressing the talent shortage by conducting the Talent Upload program, 8th Grade Career Expo, High School Career/job Fair, expanding the School to Work Coalition connecting schools to businesses and establishing the Skilled Trades Council.

In addition, we have expanded our Young Professionals PULSE programming to include Bazaar After Dark, the Artery Events, YP Week, Future 15 Awards Program and networking opportunities. Our Leadership Fox Cities Program continues its strong showing with 40 participants and our Executive Leadership Program will kick off in January 2018.

Prosper Fox Cities Campaign:

The Partnership Council and the Chamber Board of Directors have kicked off our **Prosper Fox Cities Capital Campaign** to fund phase two of our Economic Development Program. Funds generated from the campaign will be used exclusively to support the Regional Partnership in our efforts to grow the economy of the Fox Cities. Our goal is to secure pledges from our investors of \$500,000 annually with commitment from 3-5 years. We are asking our current private sector investors to re-pledge their support for the program and are reaching out to 90+ new potential investors to assist in our efforts to grow the Fox Cities' primary job base. If you haven't already been contacted, one of our volunteers will be contacting you to find a time for us to re-engage your support. We are also asking our Public Sector Partners to continue their support.

We are excited about the future and believe under the direction of new leadership we can and will move our region forward. Once fully staffed, we will further refine our programs and work with each of you to communicate our efforts and involve you in our programs and initiatives.

On behalf of the Fox Cities Regional Partnership and the Chamber Board of Directors, thank you for your support. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Onward and Upward