

# AND

Covering Business  
in Flint & Genesee

Sept/Oct 2017



## Higher Ed Paves the Way for Growth

Fenton Winery & Brewery  
founder & '98 Kettering  
Grad Matthew Sherrow

## Goyette's Local Roots Run Deep

Talent, Infrastructure  
Fuel the Rebirth of Flint

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Local colleges and universities impact regional prosperity by developing human capital, driving innovation and cultivating entrepreneurialism

*(Pictured on the cover: Fenton Winery & Brewery owner Matthew Sherrow)*

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# AND

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## SEPTEMBER

### 7 | YP Monthly Meet-Up

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Churchill's Food & Spirits, 340 S. Saginaw St.

### 14\* | Chamber Luncheon

Presenting sponsor – Sinclair Entertainment and GeneseeConnects  
\$10 members | \$20 future members  
Noon – 1:30 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre  
*\*Note date change to Thursday*

### 14 | Professional Development

Marketing in a Mobile World  
8 – 9 a.m.  
MLive Media Group, 540 S. Saginaw St.

### 19 | Professional Development

Networking: Creating Greatness Together  
\$15 members | \$30 general admission  
Noon – 2 p.m.  
Brick Street, 1223 E. Grand Blanc Rd.

### 28 | After Hours Wine Down

Sponsor – Martin Funeral, Cremation & Tribute Services  
5 – 7 p.m.  
Martin Funeral Home, 8253 S. Saginaw St.

## OCTOBER

### 5 | INSPIRE Leadership Series

Speaker: Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea, President, Mott Community College  
Noon – 1 p.m.  
Diplomat, 4100 S. Saginaw St.

### 5 | YP Monthly Meet-Up

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Churchill's Food & Spirits, 340 S. Saginaw St.

### 10 | Professional Development

Disruptive Innovations: Transforming Business  
Facilitator: Eric Rowles  
\$15 members | \$25 general admission  
9 a.m. – Noon  
Durant-Dort Factory One, 303 W. Water St.

### 11 | Chamber Luncheon

\$10 members | \$20 future members  
Noon – 1 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre

### 11 | Professional Development

Growing Your Business with Market Research  
\$15 members | \$25 general admission  
8 – 9:30 a.m.  
Mott Community College Tech Center, 1401 E. Court

### 12 | Professional Development

Networking and Nonprofits  
\$10 members | \$20 general admission  
Noon – 1 p.m.  
Girl Scouts, 111 E. Court St., 2nd floor

### 26 | After Hours Wine Down

Sponsor – Stone Specialist  
5 – 7 p.m.  
Stone Specialist, 4217 Davison Rd.

## NOVEMBER

### 2 | YP Monthly Meet-Up

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Churchill's Food & Spirits, 340 S. Saginaw St.

### 7 | INSPIRE Leadership Series

Speaker: Isaiah Oliver, President & CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Flint  
Noon – 1 p.m.  
Diplomat Headquarters, 4100 S. Saginaw St.

### 8 | Chamber Luncheon

Noon – 1 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre

### 9 | Art of Achievement Awards

Recognizing outstanding business and community leadership  
6 – 9 p.m.  
Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St.

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Small Business Award

Minority Owned Business Award

Claire M. White Award

Young Professional Leader Award

Nonprofit Impact Award

Hospitality Award Categories are:

Hospitality Ambassador Award

Hospitality Frontline Award

Restaurant of the Year Award

Hotel of the Year Award

Entertainment Venue of the Year



Submit nominations by  
October 20, 2017 to  
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From the CEO  
Introducing 'AND'



Welcome to *AND* magazine, our new bi-monthly publication that covers the world of business. We are excited to share another communications channel that was created with our members in mind.

You may be wondering “Why the name *AND*?” So I’ll start with a few reasons. We want the publication to have a regional feel. *AND* will cover topics relevant to Flint **and** Genesee County; the conjunction “and” suggests there’s more to the story, and our editors aim to do just that – provide more in-depth stories on the state of business in the Flint area; also, we believe that this small word “and” can

make a big difference in how we think about and report on the region.

Our goal for *AND* is to be informative, motivating, engaging, and above all, useful. Inside you’ll find a mixture of news, regular columns and features on a wide range of topics such as healthcare, talent, technology, economic development, leadership, diversification, advanced manufacturing, mobility, entrepreneurship, and many others. In addition, the publication will feature interviews with Chamber members, chamber tools and resources, economic updates, and personnel moves. And it will be available in print and digital formats.

I hope you enjoy this first issue. Do let us know if there are any pressing business topics that you would like to see covered in the future.

Tim Herman  
CEO

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“We believe that this small word ‘and’ can make a big difference in how we think about and report on the region.”

# The Road to Economic Growth: Genesee County's colleges help pave the way

By Gary Piatek

**W**hen Matthew Sherrow graduated from Kettering University in 1998, he was empowered with the skills to make a difference in the world, doing what he loves to do: “building things” and “working with my hands.”

While the 43-year-old's career has swung from engineering to entrepreneurship, the owner of the nearly 10-year-old Fenton Winery & Brewery is still doing what he loves to do, plus he is contributing to the area's economic growth.

Sherrow is just one of the thousands of people who have been impacted by their association with the Flint area's colleges and universities and who, in turn, are making an impact on the local economy through their jobs or businesses, skills and connections.

And it doesn't just happen here. National studies have documented the influence that colleges and universities have on the economic development and prosperity of their communities, regions and states, primarily through their roles in

research and innovation, skills training, business consulting, construction, housing rehabilitation and helping launch new businesses. All of that leads to more students gaining marketable skills, leading to more businesses, more economic growth.

In Genesee County, the situation is unique in that it has four large colleges and universities fueling the economic impact: Kettering University, University of Michigan-Flint, Mott Community College and Baker College of Flint. And they do it by meeting the needs of a broad spectrum of students.

Several other well-known Michigan-based universities also have established satellite campuses in the area, including Central Michigan University; Ferris State University; Northwood University; Spring Arbor University; and Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, which anchors the Health & Wellness District in downtown Flint. In all, the higher-education sector in Flint & Genesee serves more than 30,000

college students from all over the world.

To have these institutions “with such different scopes is a really powerful thing,” said Kettering President Dr. Robert McMahan Jr. “We have the ability to collaboratively impact the economics of Flint.

“The institutions in Flint are capable of producing a workforce at a high level,” McMahan said. “That's an enormous asset. ... The whole spectrum is here. Because when you are talking about, from a corporate relocation or a corporate investment standpoint, what's most important to many companies is the quality of the graduates at the associate level and technical vocational training as well as the four-year degree and beyond. That's where this community is just incredibly well rounded in terms of the structure of what it can deliver.”

Some of the ways the schools are delivering:

“The institutions in Flint are capable of producing a workforce at a high level. That's an enormous asset. The whole spectrum is here.”

## Kettering University

One of Kettering's four "strategic pillars" in its mission statement is community vitality, economic and otherwise, said McMahan.

Pursuing that mission, Kettering has over the past five years purchased more than 250 properties around the university, removing blight, redeveloping houses, spawning small businesses — Jimmy John's, Einstein Bros. Bagels — and spending nearly \$5 million on the rejuvenation of Atwood Stadium, he said.

Kettering also plans to spend nearly \$10 million in redeveloping the old Chevy in The Hole site, building a low-speed road course this year and developing a research garage and lab facility on the site to test automotive technology.

To help pay for the redevelopment, Kettering has received nine National Science Foundation (NSF) grants from the Major Research Instrumentation Program, the third highest number in the nation and the highest in Michigan. One was for the installation of a university-owned and operated 4GLTE Advanced wireless cellular infrastructure at the site.

"This site now supports all the communications infrastructure on which autonomous vehicles are built and communicate," McMahan said. "We are actually training the next generation of engineers and developing the next generation of autonomous vehicle technologies right here in Flint."

Kettering also created a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotic center on campus to allow high school teams to work all year to build robots and be mentored by college students and others.

And in the past few years, Kettering has spun out about 35 companies into the local community and into Michigan, many of them student-run, he said.

Now it is raising funds for a 120,000-square-foot Learning Center on campus.

Why all of this investment and engagement?

"I believe very strongly in the fact that a university has to be an active, engaged partner, and I also believe that the professions that we teach here have

an obligation of professional service," McMahan said. "We try to model it as an institution in how we engage the community in what we do.

"We do all these things because we feel

er can support through their pay and to ensure that our students aren't paying for something that they aren't getting a return on their investment."

Toward that end, Baker College in

*Aerial view of Kettering University's campus. In the foreground, the site of the GM Mobility Research Center at the former location of Chevy in the Hole.*



Kettering University

it's important and we want to play an active role in redeveloping, re-engineering and recreating Flint. ... We can make a difference here. ... There are families who are vested here, there are people who are vested, we are vested in Flint. We are proud to play a small part of that."

## Baker College of Flint

This August, Baker College moved from the quarter system to a semester format to better align with area high schools and other colleges and universities, making it easier for students to transfer credits from one institution to another.

The move was made in collaboration with its advisory boards, which are made up of the very employers that hire its graduates. The boards meet at least annually to go over emerging trends and address any skills gaps through customized training of emerging technologies.

"In this way, we ensure our student learning outcomes match employer needs," said Wen Hemingway, President of Baker of Flint. "We believe that a trained workforce is a competitive advantage for this county, and we continue to play a crucial role in ensuring that trained workforce.

"We also ensure that the degree we're offering meets the needs that the employ-

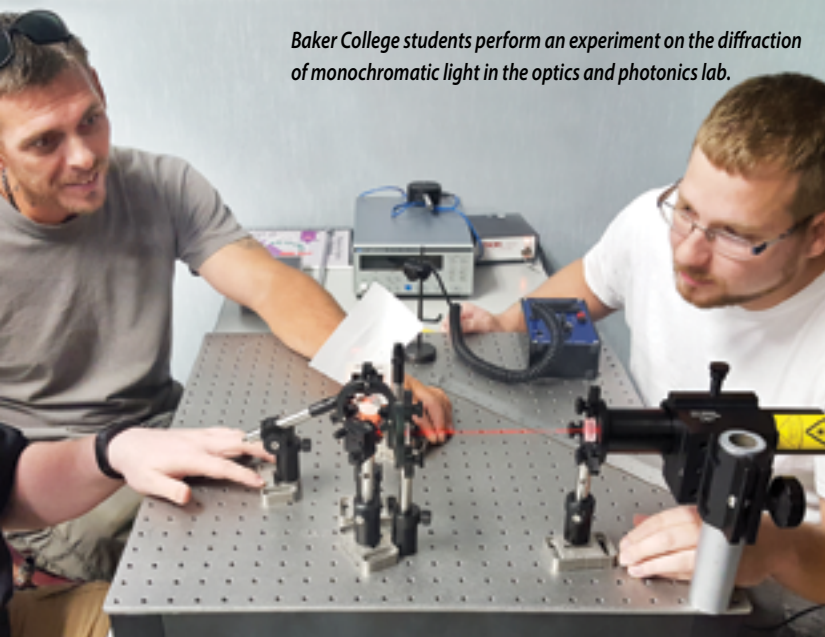
July was awarded a second NSF grant — this time for nearly \$512,000 — to advance photonics and laser education in Michigan. The first NSF grant of \$200,000 in 2013 helped establish a two-year photonics and laser technology program at the Flint Township campus to help meet the dire need for trained photonics technicians by employers in southeast Michigan. A national study found that employers require 800 new photonics technicians every year, yet two-year programs produced fewer than 300 qualified graduates annually.

Some of the new course modules will be focused on emerging areas, such as autonomous driving, integrated photonics and high-power lasers in manufacturing.

"Expanding photonics education will greatly benefit Michigan's manufacturing as well as health care, defense and other sectors," said Dr. Anca Sala, Baker's Dean of the College of Engineering. "The NSF grant will enable that expansion through adding laboratories equipped with industry-grade equipment, establishing an annual state photonics symposium, and development of curricula for K-12 and higher education institutions — for Baker College and others."

Baker's focus, Hemingway said, is to provide the education and programs that

Baker College students perform an experiment on the diffraction of monochromatic light in the optics and photonics lab.



Baker College

area employers are looking for. Some other examples are:

- Providing training for a Class B CDL driver's license during the Flint water crisis.
- Truck driver evaluation training for a utility company.
- Welder training for a large local manufacturer and food company.
- Blueprint reading, shop math and CNC training for manufacturing companies.

In addition, Baker has invested in its campus, with input from students and employers, including:

- Renovating its dormitories.
- Buying robot arms and other equipment to support its growing manufacturing and engineering programs.
- New lab equipment to keep pace with changes in the medical industry.
- Redesigning cyber defense labs to train students in a real-world setting.
- Redesigning its student center and academic resource center for team and individual study for use by both the students and the community.

Mott Community College



A rendering of MCC's planned Culinary Institute on south Saginaw Street.

## Mott Community College

Mott Community College's role as an economic driver in the region stems from its ability to promote economic stability through education and workforce development, said MCC President, Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea.

"Here in Michigan, especially in Flint and Genesee County, the middle skills represent two-thirds of the high-growth career fields," said Walker-Griffea. "Mott Community College offers degrees and certifications in those sought-after middle-skill careers, in addition to preparing students for transfer to a baccalaureate program."

Mott, like Baker, also works directly with employers to help them find students that have the skills they need or by customizing corporate training to build the skills of their existing workforce.

Robert Matthews, MCC's Associate Vice President, Workforce & Economic Development, cited the example of it working to help painters in the state gain the training needed to be able to bid on the Mackinac Bridge painting project. The college's Culinary Arts Institute is another example of a multi-pronged economic driver, he said.

MCC recently announced plans to move the institute to a vacant building at 550 S. Saginaw St. in downtown Flint. In addition to a new facility, the move will give students the skills to work in the profession and generate revenue by offering dining to the public.

"We believe that relocating our culinary arts program to the heart of downtown Flint will have a positive impact not only on our students, but on the local economy as well," said Walker-Griffea, during the announcement.

Meanwhile, the college's "Fab Lab" also impacts the local economy in a number of ways. Up until its



University of Michigan-Flint

UM-Flint students working in a renovated chemistry lab



opening in 2011, “there really wasn’t any place for an individual who had an idea in their head or on the back of a napkin to actually create a working prototype for a particular idea,” said Thomas Crampton, Executive Dean, Regional Technology Initiatives.

People needed a place to access high-end software to create 3-D digital models for their product idea or a place to create a mockup of their finished product.

“That became our niche,” he said. “We opened it up to the community.”

Students are also pulled in to help the customer, Crampton said. “We really are about talent development, so we want to make sure that the skill sets that we offer to the students are valuable so that companies will continue to grow and be successful.”

He described the process and success through the example of Sue Kellogg of Traverse City. She had heard of the Mott program and came down to get help developing a better teether for infants and toddlers. She had done research beforehand and knew what she wanted, he said. The Fab Lab created a 3-D model of her idea, called a Nawgum, and she has marketed it nationally with great success, he said. Now she wants the lab’s help to make the next-generation model.

Mott also has some big ideas for the future. It is looking at developing a family life center that would be on or adjacent to the main campus and offer the college’s early childhood programs in addition to nonacademic supports for its students, such as expanded child care. It would employ students, and offer social services and other supports. The center would be open to all students, Matthews said.

“We are hoping to accelerate the time when the family would become self-sufficient,” he said. The college is embarking on a fundraising campaign.

## University of Michigan-Flint

Last February, UM-Flint Chancellor Dr. Susan E. Borrego, in her State of the University Address, highlighted the transformational influence of higher education on the broader community.

Noting the university’s impact in public health and healthcare arena, Borrego cited the establishment of the new

School of Nursing as the fifth school on UM-Flint’s campus. Moreover, public health is a paramount concern in the growth and ongoing revitalization of Flint & Genesee.

UM-Flint’s footprint also expanded with the acquisition of the Riverfront Center, (from Uptown Reinvestment Corp., with support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation) and its purchase of the adjacent First Merit Bank North Tower. And plans are underway to add a third wing to the Murchie Science Building, a \$39-million project. The expansion will provide more space for

“We are, more than ever before, partners in contributing to the vibrancy and economic development of our community.”

research, labs and classrooms at the university where STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) enrollment has grown 58 percent over the past decade.

Borrego pointed out that “entrepreneurship and economic development go hand-in-hand and I’m especially excited about all the entrepreneurial activities our School of Management is spearheading.” Among the activities:

- The establishment of the Hagerman Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in 2015 by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman of the Hagerman Foundation. That was followed by the creation of the Hagerman-endowed professor of entrepreneurship and innovation in December 2016.
- The Hagerman Center held its first Summer Entrepreneurship Institute camp in July at which high school juniors and seniors spent three days learning about multiple aspects of entrepreneurship, business and marketing.

Another major initiative is the receipt of a five-year, \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration to start the UM-Flint EDA University Center for Community & Economic Development. Its mission is to work on economic development, community development

and innovation and entrepreneurship in the seven-county region of Genesee, Shiawassee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola.

The center recently launched a survey of businesses in the region to gauge their perceptions of the business climate to help policymakers understand how to best help those businesses, said Paula Nas, the Center’s Director.

It also will do asset mapping in the seven counties, based on the Map Flint initiative, which allows community members and researchers to access a wide variety of data and create customized

data maps of the area to help economic development partners understand shifts in population, income, growth, density and more. Students are involved, along with faculty members, broadening the students’ skills and employability.

Key to the third leg of EDA’s mission — innovation and entrepreneurship — is the school’s Innovation Incubator in the Northbank Center, which is available to students and the community. The incubator’s services include technical assistance and business workshops.

Elsewhere, UM-Flint is working with Kettering to create a safe, walkable University Avenue corridor with the help of a \$1-million federal grant to Kettering University. The grant was awarded for a plan to connect 16 law enforcement and security organizations, including UM-Flint’s Department of Public Safety, to university researchers, local nonprofits, and residents in a comprehensive effort to raise standards of living.

Echoing the remarks of her colleagues in the local higher-education sector about their collective role in the region’s progress, Borrego said: “We are, more than ever before, partners in contributing to the vibrancy and economic development of our community.” 



Member Spotlight

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**GOYETTE MECHANICAL  
EMBODIES THE PRINCIPLES  
OF ITS FOUNDER**

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By Gary Piatek | Photos Mike Naddeo



**H**ow does a family-owned company in Flint not only survive but thrive for nearly 90 years? In Goyette Mechanical, Inc.'s case, a good part of that can be attributed to its commitment to treat customers and workers like family, company leaders say.

Its mission statement speaks highly of its more than 350 employees, saying that "people make the company" and describing them as "moral, community-conscious people" who "work with enthusiasm and integrity." Its website speaks of honesty and trust.

Those principles were at the company's core when it was founded in 1928 by Leo Goyette, and it has continued to follow them as family members succeeded Leo and others earned various positions within the company that now has about 350 workers, said Tom Halligan, construction sales manager. Most of those workers perform services in the field, and about 80 are support staff in the Flint office on Gorey Avenue, he said.

All of those employees have helped Goyette grow to more than \$70 million in annual sales, Halligan said, by meeting the needs of a diverse customer base with services that include residential, building and facilities maintenance; and new construction work on HVAC/sheet metal, plumbing and piping. Its market extends beyond Flint to all of Michigan and, in 2016, to projects in Ohio, Indiana and South Carolina.


Recent projects in Flint and surrounding areas include the historic Capitol Theatre, Flint's water service line replacements, General Motors' historic Durant-Dort Factory

One, GM's paint shop, the city of Montrose's public services building and the lab renovation at the University of Michigan-Flint's Murchie Science Building.

Farther south, Goyette is finishing work at the Clemens Food Group's new pork processing facility in Coldwater; in the Detroit area, it has worked on a number of historic renovations to multi-story mixed-use developments, including the Detroit Foundation Hotel; and in Ann Arbor, it has completed numerous projects for the University of Michigan, Halligan said.

Beyond its core work, Halligan said, Goyette tries to be a good partner in the community through charitable programs, some of which include helping city residents get on-the-

job training and work toward a future in the skilled trades. Among the groups it has worked with over the years are the Whaley Children's Center, Powers Catholic High School, Boy Scouts of America, McLaren Homecare Group, Flint Institute of Arts, Carriage Town Ministries, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, the Humane Society of Genesee County and others.

"We are proud of our Flint roots, and we continue to service all types of customers in Genesee County," Halligan said. "We are committed to serving this community for many years to come." 

**"We are proud of our Flint roots, and we continue to service all types of customers in Genesee County."**

*Top right: Goyette's Tom Halligan, in the Capitol Theatre's basement, beside a huge air-handling unit for the main auditorium. The custom unit lowered into the basement in smaller sections and reassembled. Left: Rooftop piping for a refrigerant-based HVAC system Goyette installed to provide simultaneous heating or cooling to each individual zone at the Capitol.*



# Talent, Infrastructure Fuel the Rebirth of Flint

Galvanized by crisis, community leaders embark on a mission to bring Genesee County back to its roots as a hub for innovation.

By Ron Starner | *Site Selection Magazine*

The story of Diplomat Pharmacy Inc. is in many ways the story of Flint, Michigan. Established as a corner drugstore half a century ago, Diplomat today is a thriving \$4.4-billion company that saves thousands of lives every year through its healthcare management leadership in the complex illness and oncology sector.

At the heart of this Flint-based life-science firm, however, is a commitment to community.

“This community has always been about people standing up for each other and sticking together,” says Phil Hagerman, CEO and chairman of the board for Diplomat. “The water crisis showed us that we as a community are much more than the water crisis. There is a genuine warmth that is

borne of that Midwest mentality. I am passionate about what we do, and I am excited about Flint’s future.”

Hagerman and his firm are putting their money where their mouth is. Diplomat acquired 550,000 sq. ft. of the old GM Great Lakes Technology Center in 2009 and committed to hiring 1,000 workers locally.

Eight years later, Diplomat has exceeded that goal and hired 1,500 employees to work in Flint. And Diplomat is not done expanding, says Hagerman.

“In 2005, we were a \$30-million-a-year business. Today, we are a \$4.4-billion business,” Hagerman notes. “When we made the decision to invest in Michigan after considering offers to place call centers in Texas and California, we decided to locate 80 to 90 percent of our jobs in Genesee County.”

The ability to hire talent in Flint makes it easy for Diplomat to grow, the CEO says. “We sit at the crossroads of Interstates 75 and 69. Many employees live 50 to 60 miles away and drive here in about an hour,” he adds. “We draw workers from Midland, Lansing, Port Huron and Detroit. Plus, the location assets are second to none. The beauty of this community in Southeast Michigan is unparalleled. We have the infrastructure for arts and culture that a city of a million people would have. We have spectacular lakes, an art museum, great entertainment, and all with a cost of living that is very balanced.”

## Investing in Infrastructure

The infrastructure in a county of 418,408 people is getting better thanks to a unique



**Left:** Pharmacy technicians filling orders at Diplomat. **Middle:** Huntington Bank's Saginaw Street office in Flint. **Right:** A truck progressing through the GM paint shop.

partnership that is pumping an additional \$25 million into economic development. FlintNOW, Huntington Bank and Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores have teamed up to fund programs to support homeowners, businesses and entrepreneurs in Flint and Genesee County.

"We announced \$20 million in SBA 7(a) lending," says David Lochner, president of Huntington's East Michigan

Region. "We are the largest 7(a) lender in Michigan and the second largest originator of 7(a) loans in the country. That allows us to expand our risk appetite incrementally and provide more solutions to more customers. The intellectual capital that we can bring to any venture is important. We have a strong belief that if we do the right things for the community, it leads to more business opportunity for us."

Huntington demonstrated its own commitment to Flint recently by investing \$5 million into renovating its downtown campus and adding 60 employees.

Lochner says that business executives from elsewhere in the country are surprised when they visit Flint. "The richness and talent and commitment

of key stakeholders in this community make me optimistic about Flint's future," he says. "Harnessing industry talent is the legacy of Flint. You can see that happening everywhere around here now."

#### **GM Keeps on Truckin' in Flint**

Jeff Lamarche, director of Flint Manufacturing Operations and plant manager for Flint Assembly for General Motors, says the same advantages give GM a leg up in Flint.

"The faith that we have in the Flint workforce has been rewarded," he says. "We have been winning JD Power quality awards over the last several years for the trucks that we build right here in Flint. This is the best quality you can get from any plant."

GM demonstrated its faith by investing \$2.8 billion into various expansion projects in Flint since 2009. This includes a 1.6-million-sq.-ft. paint shop that opened in October and an 800,000-sq.-ft. body shop that just broke ground.

Originally opened in 1947, GM Flint Assembly today employs 2,800 workers and is considered one of the most technologically advanced manufacturing

"The beauty of this community in Southeast Michigan is unparalleled. We have the infrastructure for arts and culture that a city of a million people would have."

plants in the world. It makes the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-sized pickups, including Heavy Duty and Light Duty.

"Flint had some issues but the investments GM is making shows the resilience of Flint," says Lamarche. "There really are a lot of good things going on here. It is not just the water crisis. Flint is doing well and is poised for an even brighter future with the investments we are making. This is also helping our suppliers to take a closer look at Flint." 

(Content first appeared in *Site Selection Magazine*.)

## Leadership NOW: Building bench strength in Flint & Genesee

**Leadership NOW** is in the final months of its third cohort of participants, and interest in the professional development program continues to build across Flint & Genesee. Since its restructuring two years ago, the program has graduated 25 emerging, high-potential individuals from the nonprofit, public and private sectors who sought to sharpen their leadership skills and broaden their network.

The current session has 18 participants working toward a December

graduation. Meanwhile, recruitment for the 2018 cohort gets underway in October.

Leadership NOW seeks individuals who want to develop their leadership skills and give back to the community. It's aimed at executives, board members, department heads, elected officials, emerging leaders and influencers who have experience in either the private, public or nonprofit sectors. Participants must reside or work in Genesee County. Tuition is \$1,000, with partial scholarships available.

Admission is selective. Applicants must meet several criteria, including attendance at an informational session and a commitment to attend at least 90 percent of the sessions.

Once accepted, sessions are held monthly for one year. Participants also receive essential resources, including an executive coach and a 360-degree feedback assessment.


A central feature of the program is the design and execution of a shared services project.

"It's a group project and similar to a final exam," said Michelle Hill, Director of Core Initiatives at the Flint & Genesee Chamber and program co-director.

Leadership NOW 2016 developed a community library and gathering space, in partnership with the Brownell-Holmes Neighborhood Association. A celebration was held August 23 with scores of attendees, including Flint Mayor Karen Weaver.

Co-director Jenni Dones called the Brownell-Holmes project exemplary of the program's goals. "The projects are collaborative, community-focused and should have some sustainability or lasting impact," said Dones, Program Manager at the United Way of Genesee County.

Tauzzari Robinson was in the process of transitioning from a program manager to the executive director's position when he was in the program.

"I would not have been able to manage the transition as well as I did without the program components - session content, accountability partner, coach and facilitators - to help me navigate the changes," said Robinson, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Flint. 



### Meet the Flint & Genesee Chamber Regional Leadership Council

The Regional Leadership Council (RLC) is a standing committee of the Chamber's Strategic Board and meets quarterly. The members of the RLC are selected to represent the region's major businesses and donors.

A.G. Bishop Charitable Trust  
AT&T Michigan  
Baker College of Flint  
Bishop Airport Authority  
Brown and Brown of Michigan  
C3 Ventures Flint LLC  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Chase  
Community Foundation of Greater Flint  
Consumers Energy  
Dee Cramer, Inc.  
Diplomat Pharmacy, Inc.  
The DM Burr Group  
DWLurvey Construction  
E & L Construction Group  
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan  
General Motors Customer Care & Aftersales  
General Motors Flint Engine Operations  
The Genesee Group  
Genesys Health System  
Goyette Mechanical  
GST Michigan Works!  
Hamilton Community Health Network  
Health Alliance Plan  
Hubbard Supply  
The Huntington National Bank  
Hurley Medical Center  
IMS Hockey  
Kettering University  
Koegel Meats  
Landaal Packaging Systems  
Lewis & Knopf CPAs, PC  
Management Diversified, Inc.  
Mass Transportation Authority  
McLaren - Flint  
MLive Media Group & The Flint Journal  
Mott Children's Health Center  
Mott Community College  
NorthGate  
Peerless Mattress Co.  
Plante & Moran, PLLC  
Riverfront EyeCare  
ROWE Professional Services  
Ruth Mott Foundation  
Serra Automotive  
Shaltz Automation  
Siwek Construction  
Sorensen-Gross Construction  
University of Michigan-Flint  
Weinstein Electric

# Welcome New Members

When you join the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce, you become part of the collective force building a vibrant economy in Flint & Genesee. Working with members strengthens the network of your local chamber.

Support our newest members! Contact them for future business opportunities.

**AJ Importing Transportation Services, LLC**

*ajimporting.com*

**AJ Importing, LLC**

*ajimporting*

**AJ Motors, LLC**

*ajimporting.com*

**AJP Commercial**

**Shredding LLC**

*ajpcommercial.com*

**Belle Tire**

*belletire.com*

**Bongo's Popcorn**

*(810) 444-5176*

**Cafe Rhema**

*caferhema.com*

**Digital Mitten**

*digitalmitten.com*

**Fick Excavating, Inc.**

*(810) 635-9708*

**Fireside Coffee Co.**

*firesidecoffee.com*

**Friends of Berston**

*berston.org*

**GoodBoy Clothing**

*goodboyclothes.com*

**Holy Cross Services**

*holycrossservices.org*

**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, DC1M**

*iupatdc1michigan.org*

**Kelly Services**

*kellyservices.com*

**Mercury Network**

*mercury.net*

**Pam Smith - Keller Williams**

**Realty**

*homesbuypam.com*

**Plunkett Cooney**

*plunkettcooney.com*

**Regent Law PC**

*regentlawpc.com*

**Spring Arbor University**

*arbor.edu*

**The Machine Shop**

*theshopmachineshop.info*

**The Paint Center**

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**Congratulations** to our members on the move. Share your ribbon cutting ceremony, groundbreaking, expansion or promotion with us. The Chamber has the media connections to promote your news, offering valuable exposure to the community announcing you are open for business.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for *The Paint Centers*, 4205 Miller Rd., Flint, on July 29. Owner: Stacey Keller. *ThePaintCenters.com*



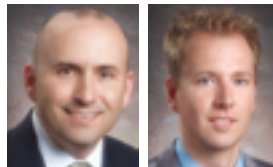
Flint Expat Herb Washington speaking at the inaugural Flint Homecoming on Aug. 17 at the Durant-Dort Factory One. Washington, President & CEO of H.L.W. Fast Track, a food and beverage company, pledged \$10,000 toward the Capitol Theatre renovation.



Chamber members enjoying the 9th annual Hot Dogs & Hot Rods Member Appreciation Cookout, held Aug. 17 at the Flint Farmers' Market. (Weather forced this year's event to be held indoors.)

## Promotions/New Hires

**ROWE Professional Services** has promoted **Louis P. Fleury, PE,** and **Michael**



**A. Royalty, PE,** from project managers to senior project managers. Four staff were promoted from senior project engineers



to project managers: **Kent A. Edwards, PE;** **Amanda N. Hemeyer, PE;** **Dean A. Oparka, PE;** and **Matthew J. Seitz, PE, PTOE.**



In addition, company team member **Kevin P. Janes, PE,** earned his professional engineer license.

**Jeremy Schrot, PE,** joined **Wade Trim's Municipal Services Group** in Flint, as a Project Manager where he works with municipal and private clients and supports business development efforts.



**Kettering University** has appointed **Laura M. Allen** as Director of the Office of International Programs (OIP). The OIP facilitates opportunities for international students, professors, scholars and visitors from around the world. Allen was formerly an International Student Coordinator at Kettering.

**Diplomat Pharmacy, Inc.** announced the appointment of **Joel Saban** as President, effective Aug. 7. Saban was formerly executive vice president, pharmacy operations at Catamaran Corp. He replaces Paul Urick, RPh, who will serve as President Emeritus during a planned, 90-day transition period.





**Consumers Energy** has named **Kyle McCree** the Community Affairs Area Manager for Genesee County. McCree was formerly the Director of Core Initiatives at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce.



#### The Community Foundation of



**Greater Flint** promoted **Isaiah M. Oliver** to be its new President and Chief Executive Officer. Oliver, formerly the foundation's Vice President of



Community Impact, is the CFGF's first leader born and raised in Flint. The CFGF also announced the appointment of **Denise Smith** as Executive Director of the Flint Early Childhood Collaborative. Smith was previously the Vice President of Early Learning for Excellent Schools Detroit.

**NorthGate** has selected **George Wilkinson** as its new President. Wilkinson is formerly Group Vice President at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce.



**Justin Sprague** has joined **CIB Planning, Inc.** as Vice President. Sprague was formerly Director of Business Development at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce.



#### The Michigan Economic Development



**Corporation (MEDC)** has appointed **Jeff Mason** to be the organization's new CEO. Mason is also president and chairman of the **Michigan Strategic Fund**. He was formerly executive director of Michigan's University Research Corridor.



**Dr. Binesh Patel** has been named the new chief medical officer at **McLaren Flint**. Dr. Patel was previously the chief medical officer for Sinai-Grace and Huron-Valley Sinai hospitals for Tenet Healthcare.

**Donald Henderson** was named vice president of corporate laboratory services for McLaren Homecare Group, a subsidiary of **McLaren Health Care**.

**The Disability Network** has named 16-year veteran **Luke Zolley** as its new President. He replaces **Mike Zolley**, who founded and led the organization for 26 years.



## Business News

**Mott Community College** and the **Crim Fitness Foundation** are among the 49 recipients of the **2017 Governor's Service Awards**, announced by Gov. **Rick Snyder**. MCC was recognized as an Education Service Leader; the Crim foundation was recognized as an Outstanding Volunteer Program. **Samuel Wells** of Flint Township was selected as a Mentor of the Year. The winners are individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations that were selected for their commitment to volunteerism, service or philanthropy.

**Dee Cramer, Inc.** – a third-generation, family owned company – celebrates 80 years of service this year. The HVAC/sheet metal construction & service firm was founded in Flint in 1937 by Dee (Devere) Cramer.

**Plante Moran**, one of the nation's largest public accounting and business advisory firms, has been named to the "100 Best Workplaces for Millennials" list by *For-tune.com* and *Great Place to Work®*.

**Hamilton Community Health Network** last month celebrated a milestone – its 35th anniversary as a Federally Qualified Health Center, providing comprehensive quality health care services to residents of the city of Flint, Lapeer and surrounding communities.

The **Ruth Mott Foundation** announced that **Greg Gaines** of the Mr. Gaines Gardening Program PLUS has been chosen as the winner of the inaugural Ruth Mott Foundation Leadership Award.

The **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation** announced it has surpassed \$1 billion in total grantmaking related to the greater

Flint area since the organization was established in 1926. Adjusted for inflation, the figure would be more than \$2.3 billion in 2016 dollars.

The architectural firm **THA** is celebrating 60 years of design excellence, 1957-2017.

**Cleamon Moorer Jr., DBA**, Baker College's dean of the College of Business, is one of *Black Enterprise* magazine's 100 Modern Men of Distinction with the moniker "Mr. Higher Learning."



**Genesys Regional Medical Center** is the first hospital and pharmacy in the entire country to receive the new Medication Compounding Certification from The Joint Commission (TJC). This newly created certification is based on standards from the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP®) to help compounding pharmacies ensure compliance with standards related to the process, testing and verification of compounded sterile and nonsterile preparations.

The Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare (AABH) recently recognized the **McLaren Flint Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Program** as a finalist for National Partial Hospital Program of the Year. Mark Sak, Program Manager, and Ken Deighton, Director of Behavioral Health Services, accepted the award July 16 at the AABH Annual Conference in Long Beach, Calif.

**Serra Automotive** in August acquired Draper Chevrolet and Draper Toyota in Saginaw. The dealerships will be renamed Serra Chevrolet and Serra Toyota. The Serra Automotive network ranks among the top 10 privately-held automotive groups in the nation, with 54 automotive franchises and 38 dealerships in seven states.

*Members are encouraged to send news about staff changes, awards, or recognitions for publication in Members on the Move.*

Send submissions to:  
[bcampbell@flintandgenesee.org](mailto:bcampbell@flintandgenesee.org).

*High resolution photos are welcomed for personnel updates.*

# The future's bright in Flint & Genesee

By Patti Poppe

As a company that has spent 130 years serving Michigan, Consumers Energy has deep roots in Flint and Genesee County.



*Patti Poppe is Consumers Energy's President and Chief Executive Officer. Consumers Energy is Michigan's largest energy utility, serving 6.7 million people throughout the Lower Peninsula.*

Every day we make an impact in the lives of our employees, business owners and customers in the community. Over 500 employees live and/or work in Genesee County. We've spent over \$20 million with Genesee County businesses in the last two years, and we've provided another \$44 million in energy efficiency rebates to homeowners and businesses since 2009.


There's more opportunity yet to come for the Flint region, and we're excited to be part of it.

- Consumers Energy is in the middle of a project to clean up the site of a former manufactured gas plant on the south bank of the Flint River. When completed, this will pave the way for the planned restoration of the downtown Flint riverfront.
- Across Genesee County, we have identified three "Energy Ready" locations where our infrastructure – electricity and natural gas – is in place to support new businesses, or business expansion, in those areas to put people to work.
- Consumers Energy has been a strong supporter of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education through our collaboration with FIRST Robotics. We're excited to see Kettering University's partnership with FIRST Robotics, opening a community center that's home to eight high school teams and hosting summer camps for kids at different age levels.

We are working to encourage growth in the region through economic development and by fortifying the talent pipeline that can produce the community's next generation of leaders.

The excitement we feel for Flint's future also applies to our industry. We at Consumers Energy are making changes that are transforming our mission to provide reliable and affordable energy. These changes will fuel the engine that continues to drive this region's growth.

We'll be working hard to help businesses and households use less energy through energy efficiency and building awareness of their total energy use -- in particular on the hottest summer days when we all work together to ease the strain on the power grid. All of this has a major economic impact in creating jobs and helping businesses remain competitive.

We pride ourselves on world class performance as we serve most of Michigan, and also hometown service to communities like Flint. We believe this community has a bright future. 

*Consumers clean-up site on the Flint River*



Our Flint is

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Explore the Flint Children's Museum, where hands-on exhibits inspire lifelong learning through play

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# vibrant

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