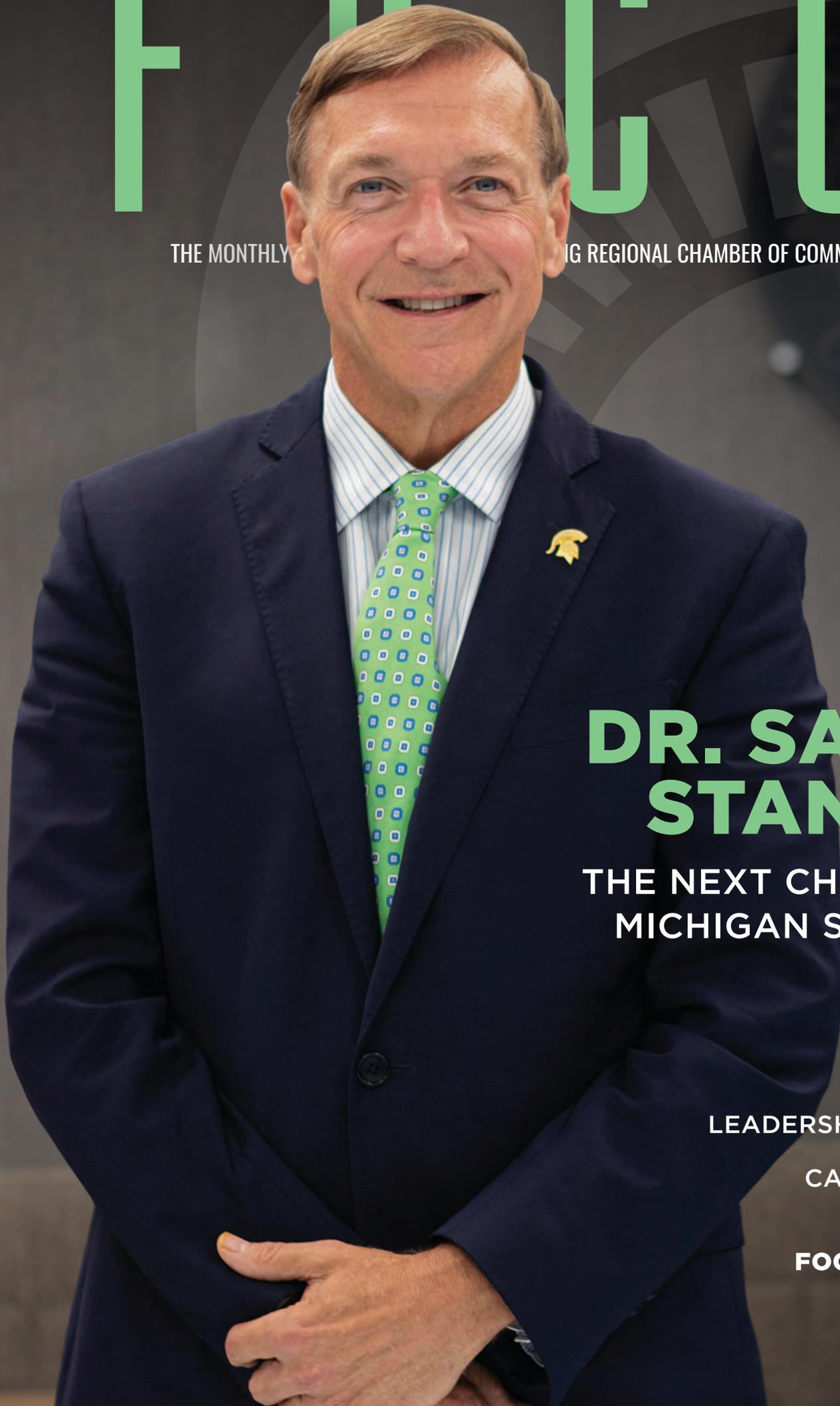


FOCUS

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE • SEPTEMBER 2019



DR. SAMUEL L. STANLEY, JR.

THE NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

IN THIS ISSUE

JOIN THE GROWING LEADERSHIP LANSING COMMUNITY

CAPITAL AREA UNITED WAY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

FOCUS ON SMALL BUSINESS: CARE FREE MEDICAL



TIM DAMAN
*President and CEO
 Lansing Regional
 Chamber of Commerce*

New Leadership. New Opportunities.

THE PROSPECT OF CHANGE BRINGS WITH IT UNCERTAINTY about what the future holds. As leaders, we understand that selling change in our organizations can be challenging because of the natural tendency to hang on to that with which we are familiar. Yet, we also understand that if we cling too dearly to the status quo, our organizations will fail to adapt and adjust in ways that will help us serve our customers and continue to grow. Change also brings opportunities to explore exciting new directions that can foster a new vibrancy, renewed energy, increased commitment and new innovation.

The most prominent of these leadership changes is the arrival of the new president of Michigan State University, Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr., who we interviewed for our cover story in this month's edition of FOCUS Magazine. Dr. Stanley brings to MSU a diverse background that lends itself well to the challenges of running one of the leading land grant universities in the world. He is a distinguished biomedical researcher, led his previous institution, Stony Brook University, to its most successful year ever in fundraising and has a successful track record in promoting the role of the university in research in innovation and discovery.

“Change also brings with it opportunities to explore exciting new directions that can foster a new vibrancy, renewed energy, increased commitment and new innovation.”

We look forward to working with President Stanley on many issues including how to attract the best talent to the university – especially our homegrown talent. Business leaders in the region also see exciting potential in STEM-related research and how we can leverage that expertise to draw top students and faculty to East Lansing. We also look forward to MSU strengthening its leadership position in other research-based areas, most notably, agriculture, which is Michigan's second-largest industry.



New leaders have been appointed at a number of other key institutions in the region recently, including: Jeffrey Tagsold (Auto-Owners), Lisa Corless (AF Group), Goran Jurkovic (Delta Dental) and both major hospital systems, Kirk Ray (Mclaren Greater Lansing) and James Dover (Sparrow). These leaders bring fresh perspectives and new ideas to their respective organizations. They also understand how strong communities are built and have demonstrated a commitment to using their role as business leaders to embrace the overall health and well being of the entire Lansing region.

Though her appointment as CEO of TechSmith isn't quite as recent, Wendy Hamilton is a great example of a leader who came from out-of-state to bring news ideas and new approaches to a highly successful technology company that continues to grow globally, including a recent expansion in China. We are especially pleased that Wendy's commitment to the region includes serving as next year's chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Our organization and the region will, no doubt, benefit greatly from her leadership.

I am hopeful that recent leadership changes that we have been witnessing in the Lansing region have the clear potential to take our region to a new era that will define our region as a leader in the 21st century knowledge economy. Our region has always been blessed with leadership excellence that has guided us through every challenge. We at the Chamber are committed to working with all these outstanding leaders in ways that take our region down a path towards greatness. ■



ABOUT 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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Save the Date!

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL 10 OVER THE NEXT TEN AWARDS

Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

University Club of Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing, MI

Contact Ashlee Willis: or 517.853.6463

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4 | DELTA TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Location: Crowne Plaza West, 925 Creyts Road, Lansing. The Delta Government Relations Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month to provide a forum for business leaders and elected officials to discuss important issues impacting Delta Township and Eaton County. To ensure adequate seating, please RSVP to Steve Japinga at sjapinga@lansingchamber.org

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10 / MEMBER MIXER 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. University Club of Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. Connect with friends, colleagues and business leaders over great food and drinks in a beautiful atmosphere at the University Club! From world-class dining to swimming, golf, tennis, fitness, spa services, recreational programs, and special events, the University Club serves the social, business, dining, fitness, and recreational needs of the Lansing region and Michigan State University community, helping members connect with family, friends and colleagues in an upscale, yet comfortable environment. Membership is open to all. For more information about how to become a member, visit universityclubofmsu.org. No cost to attend for members (\$15/non-members). Includes hors d'oeuvres.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11 | LANSING BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Lansing Board of Water and Light Train Depot, 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. The Lansing Business Roundtable meets the second Wednesday of each month to provide a forum for business leaders and elected officials to discuss important issues impacting the City of Lansing. To ensure adequate seating, please RSVP to Steve Japinga at sjapinga@lansingchamber.org

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12 | LANSING ECONOMIC CLUB 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. Speaker: Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr., president, Michigan State University. Program begins at noon. Please arrive early for registration and networking. \$55|member ticket or \$425|table of eight or \$75|prospective member ticket (includes plated lunch). Pre-registration is required.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18 | EAST LANSING MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ROUNDTABLE 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Plante Moran, 1111 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. The East Lansing Meridian Township Business Roundtable meets the third Wednesday of each month to provide a forum for business leaders and elected officials to discuss important issues facing East Lansing and Meridian Township. To ensure adequate seating, please RSVP to Steve Japinga at sjapinga@lansingchamber.org.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24 / CHAMBER 360 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Insurance Capital Board Room, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. 200, Lansing. Chamber members are encouraged to attend Chamber 360 to learn how to maximize your Chamber benefits, meet our staff and network with fellow members. This is a FREE event, but space is limited. To register for this event, please contact Michelle Rahl at mrahl@lansingchamber.org.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24 / 10 OVER THE NEXT TEN 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. University Club of Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. The annual event recognizes Greater Lansing's top young professionals who are expected to contribute significantly to our community over the next ten years. The event is co-hosted by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and Grand River Connection. Sponsored by the University Club of Michigan State University.

THURSDAY, OCT. 3 | HEALTHCARE FORUM 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. INNOVATIVE WAYS TO CONTROL HEALTHCARE COSTS. Join us for this high energy TEDx style format as we address key healthcare issues facing businesses. Registration is required lansingchamber.org. \$55 individual ticket, \$75 non-member individual ticket or \$425 table of eight.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY SOCIAL.

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 Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

2019
LRCC EVENTS

For more information about Chamber events, tickets or sponsorships, contact Ashlee Willis at michiganpremierevents@lansingchamber.org.

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CHAMBER MILESTONES

We'd like to offer a special salute to these great organizations that reached milestone anniversaries as Chamber members this month. Thank you for your continued support through the years!

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Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce members have unparalleled access to their 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 into the site, please follow the simple password reset instructions. Call 517-487-6340 with any questions.

Care Free Medical: Serving The Underserved

BY MIRANDA SUSICK, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

AT CARE FREE MEDICAL, THE GOAL IS TO UPLIFT those who have been left behind. Dr. Farhan Bhatti and his staff are doing just that in the Lansing community.

Care Free Medical's patients are under or uninsured adults and children, who otherwise have difficulty getting access to health care. The clinic provides more than 10,000 office visits per year in addition to the 3,000 and 1,000 visits their dental and optometry clinics see each year, respectively.

"Having health insurance is not the same thing as having access to health care," said Dr. Bhatti, CEO of Care Free Medical. "The Medicaid Expansion provision of the Affordable Care Act gave health insurance to 640,000 people in Michigan, many for the first time in their adult lives. Yet there are very few physicians who accept Medicaid insurance because of the low reimbursement rates."

Dr. Bhatti, who graduated from Michigan State's College of Human Medicine in 2012, could have chosen to work in a private practice, but chose to go a different route. He said working in the nonprofit sector is in many ways more rewarding on a moral and emotional level."

"I am especially passionate about making sure the health care policies being put forth by our elected officials will benefit not just the patients we serve, but also the broader community," said Dr. Bhatti.

In April 2019, the nonprofit reached a major milestone in its history and celebrated the grand opening of its new facility. The new location, at 1100 W. Saginaw St. in Lansing, tripled their space and made room for all its services



to be under one roof. This allows providers to effectively communicate with one another and come up with the best possible plans of treatment for their patients.

Additionally, Care Free Medical has recently partnered with a pharmacist and is looking to add counseling and physical therapy services to the new building. Offering a broad range of providers in one location is a strong benefit to Care Free Medical's patients and their wellness.

Bhatti believes that giving those who do not have access to healthcare a place to turn to means the public as a whole benefits.

"Thriving clinics like Care Free Medical are powerful economic development engines for communities. Care Free Medical is empowering people to obtain and maintain employment by achieving health and wellness," said Bhatti. "A healthy workforce is a productive workforce."

Because of its recent move, Care Free has recently become eligible to apply for federal funding, which would go a long way in helping to add staff, such as case managers, social workers, and psychologists. Currently, one-third of Care Free Medical's budget is made up of private donations and grants from those who want to help the clinic continue its important work in the community.

Care Free Medical serves as a catalyst to help patients overcome physical and mental health challenges. Dr. Bhatti and his staff are doing their part to enable patients to provide for their families, while also contributing to society in a meaningful and impactful way. ■

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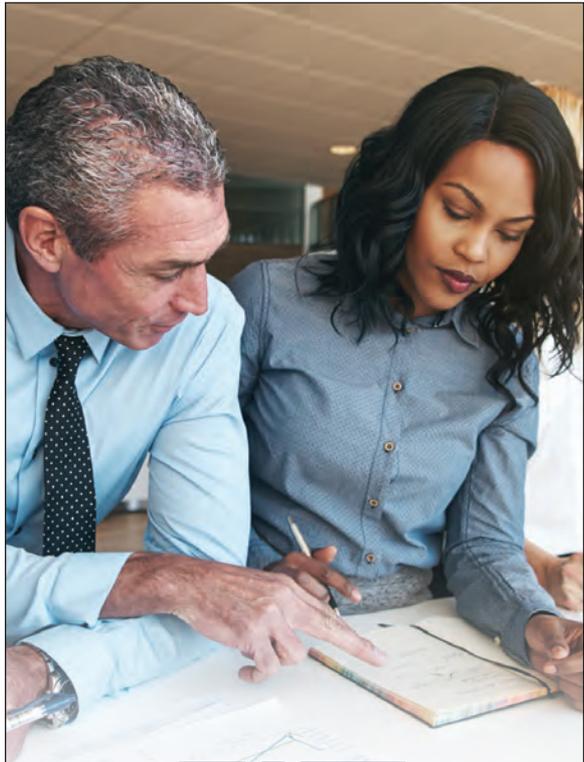
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Regional Growth Starts with Community Collaboration

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, THE LRCC HAS LED MONTHLY BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS where business, community and government leaders can share what is going on in our community and collaborate on ways to advance our region. We're proud to now offer our business roundtable series in Delta Township, East Lansing/Meridian Township and the city of Lansing. Together, our business community and local elected officials can shape the future of our region and leave a lasting impact on our regional prosperity. We would love to see you at one or all three of our business roundtables! ■

<p style="text-align: center;">DELTA TOWNSHIP ROUNDTABLE</p> <p><i>Crowne Plaza Lansing West</i> 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing</p> <p><i>Delta Township Library</i> 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 a.m. – 9 a.m.</p> <p>Sept. 4, 2019 at Crowne Plaza Lansing West</p> <p>Oct. 2, 2019 at Delta Township Library</p> <p>Nov. 6, 2019 at Delta Township Library</p> <p>Dec. 4, 2019 at Delta Township Library</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EAST LANSING AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ROUNDTABLE</p> <p><i>Plante Moran</i> 111 E. Michigan Ave.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 a.m. – 9 a.m.</p> <p>Sept. 18, 2019</p> <p>Oct. 16, 2019</p> <p>Nov. 20, 2019</p> <p>Dec. 18, 2019</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LANSING ROUNDTABLE</p> <p><i>Lansing Board of Water and Light Historic Train Depot</i> 1201 S. Washington, REO Town</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 a.m. – 9 a.m.</p> <p>Sept. 11, 2019</p> <p>Oct. 9, 2019</p> <p>Nov. 13, 2019</p> <p>Dec. 11, 2019</p>
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What's Happening with Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave

THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE AND PAID SICK LEAVE LAWS went into effect in March but look different than the citizen-led proposals that were adopted by the Legislature before the proposals reached the November 2018 ballot. The laws were amended before the end of the 2018 legislative session. This is sometimes referred to as an "adopt-and-amend" legislative procedure.

Some state lawmakers questioned whether changing the laws were constitutional and requested an official opinion from the Michigan Supreme Court (MSC). The MSC agreed to hear the case and allowed oral arguments on July 17 but did not commit to issuing an opinion.

The MSC 2018-19 term ended Aug. 1 with no decision on the House and Senate's request for an advisory opinion on adopt-and-amend.

Since the request doesn't follow the court's normal timetable, a decision could come at any time, but the court isn't obligated to weigh in.

For more information on these laws, visit the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Wage and Labor Division at Michigan.gov/LEO, or contact Steve Japinga with the LRCC government relations department at sjapinga@lansingchamber.org ■

LRCC Intern Helps Improve Chamber's Excellent Operations

THIS SUMMER, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF HAVING LOGAN FUENTES,



Fuentes

a Michigan State University senior studying economics, as a vital part of our Government Relations and Public Policy team. Over the course of his internship, Fuentes worked on a wide range of projects, including researching and creating a municipality tax report, which involves looking at over 20 local municipalities and breaking down their taxes and what those dollars are being spent on. He also monitored and documented the changing medical and recreational marijuana/marijuana laws and tracked which local municipalities were opting in and out. Additionally, Fuentes was instrumental in the strategic planning and creation of materials for the LRC-PAC. This involved writing drafts of fundraising letters, researching and planning future fundraising opportunities and creating materials to promote PAC endorsements and resident voting.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CHAMBER?

I like how open everybody at the Chamber has been during my time as an intern. They always made an effort to invite me to meetings and introduce me to countless people. I also like how no day at the Chamber is the same and how fast paced some of the days are.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CHAMBER EVENT YOU'VE BEEN TO AND WHY?

There are a couple of events that stick out right away. My very first day at the Chamber, I went to a panel discussion and heard the governor speak about repairing infrastructure. This event gave me insight into what I would be working on for my first couple weeks at the Chamber, which involved looking into why repairing the infrastructure is so vital to the area. Another event that sticks out to me was the Meijer distribution tour. This event was one of my favorites because it gave me the opportunity to meet local government officials

and showed us how important Meijer is to our region and local economy.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

A lot of my free time is spent watching sports. I really enjoy watching basketball, football, and soccer. Having played and coached basketball, I like watching games by myself and diving deeper into why things are happening the way they are.

TELL US A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I am left-handed.

Fuentes has grown immensely over the summer and has lent many forward-thinking ideas to our team. We are thankful for the time he has given and are proud of the work he has done for our members and businesses in our region. The Chamber staff is looking forward to continuing to have him as part of our team this fall! ■

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Becky Davison, Halifax Chamber; Andrea Connor, ATHENA International; Betsy Gardner Eckbert, Winter Park Florida Chamber; Tim Daman, Lansing Regional Chamber

ACCE – A Whirlwind of Learning and Leading

THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER IS PLEASED TO BE a long-time member of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). Established in 1914, ACCE helps chambers of commerce and the people who manage them make a difference in the communities they serve by providing resources, industry information and data, professional development opportunities, peer connectivity and best practice sharing through a variety of channels and networking opportunities.

One important networking and professional development opportunity was the annual ACCE conference, held this year in Long Beach, California from July 14 – 17. Tim Daman, Steve Japinga and Michelle Rahl represented the Lansing Chamber at the conference.

At the conference, the Lansing Chamber was asked to present as part of a panel discussion: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs and Leaders. During this conversation, representatives from our Chamber, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce and the Winter Park Chamber discussed how women are an untapped economic resource, as well as different ways Chambers can offer support to women.

We were pleased to share the story of the ATHENA Award and the various related programs that are in operation today, including ATHENA Win and ATHENAPowerLink. ATHENA is now a global movement with more than 7,000 awards having been presented in more than 500 communities throughout the world. But, the true legacy of ATHENA is that women today are firmly entrenched in prominent leadership roles not only on boards of directors but also as entrepreneurs, in business, education and elected office. ATHENA fundamentally changed the face of business as we know it, and that is a message we are happy to share with our Chamber counterparts.

Attending national conferences or industry-specific events are critical to enhancing strategic thinking, problem-solving skills and relationship building. It also feeds into one of our core strategic plan pillars – Excellent Operations. Sustaining a high-performing organization requires a constant commitment to personal and professional growth. ACCE was the perfect place to participate in solutions-focused sessions and interactive workshops that will arm us with the information and resources needed to continue to help Lansing area businesses CONNECT, GROW and THRIVE. ■

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VOLUNTEERS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF CHAMBER PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES,

and we encourage all members to consider getting involved in one of our committees and other volunteer opportunities. Chamber volunteers develop new leadership skills, expand personal and professional networks and are instrumental in helping the chamber execute strategic policy initiatives, plan events and support outreach and business development programs.

There are a number of volunteer opportunities including the Chamber's Board of Directors, Legislative Policy Committee, Political Action Committee, Ambassador Committee, Business Value Committee, ATHENA PowerLink Governing Body, ATHENA WIN and Economic Club Speaker Advisory Board.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee plays an essential role in the development of the Chamber's policy and legislative priorities. The committee is comprised of a diverse group of Chamber business members, representing all sectors of industries in the Lansing region. The committee reviews, and at times, actions acts on proposals that may impact the business community at the local, state and federal levels of government.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Lansing Regional Chamber-Political Action Committee's mission is to elect candidates for local and state office that align with the business community's priorities to create a tax and regulatory environment that allows economic development, business expansion and job growth.

AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE

The Ambassador Committee promotes member commitment and retention by raising awareness of Chamber activities and benefits; informing and involving new Chamber members to promote strong continuing membership; encouraging meaningful and beneficial participation in the Chamber's programs; serving as a liaison between the Chamber staff and membership; and acting as Chamber representatives at ribbon cuttings, open houses and more.

BUSINESS VALUE COMMITTEE

The Business Value Committee evaluates membership, marketing and engagement/VOI (value on investment). The committee acts as a sounding board for the Chamber to share the work we are doing related to communications, marketing, membership value and business development. The feedback from the committee ensures that the tools, resources and connections provided by the Chamber meet and exceed member needs.

ATHENA POWERLINK GOVERNING BODY

Established in 1999, ATHENA PowerLink is a national mentoring program that connects selected women business owners with a skilled advisory panel. The Governing Body administers the implementation of the ATHENA PowerLink program by helping the business owner achieve networking experiences, capital and operational and strategic goals while enhancing the business owner's leadership and management skills for future business growth.

ATHENA WIN

Founded in Lansing under the original principles of ATHENA International to support, develop and honor women leaders while inspiring and encouraging women to achieve their full potential, ATHENA WIN is a collaborative effort to provide a support system for professional women in the Lansing area. ATHENA WIN offers information, support and opportunity to women in business, whether it is advice on getting started or assistance stepping up to the next level.

ECONOMIC CLUB SPEAKER ADVISORY BOARD

The mission of the Lansing Regional Chamber Economic Club Speaker Advisory Board is to promote economic growth through insightful forums, discussing a broad range of cultural, academic, business, and social enlightenment issues of the day. Responsibilities of committee members include attendance at and promotion of each luncheon; actively pursuing speakers and sponsors; development of program content; registration assistance; developing policies to increase membership; constant improvement of the quality of the Economic Club and other tasks as required.

To get involved with one of these terrific volunteer opportunities, call the Chamber at 517-487-6340. ■

Capital Area United Way: 100 Years of Making a Difference

BY ISABELLA WAH, KOLT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

CAPITAL AREA UNITED WAY HAS SPENT THE LAST 100 YEARS

working to help every person in our community live a better life. They pride themselves on listening to the community and shifting to meet the issues facing residents.

During World War II, women began entering the workforce, which created a need for inexpensive childcare. Capital Area United Way (CAUW) recognized this need and acted by opening one of the first community nursery centers, with the cost of childcare based on the earnings of the family. In the 1980s, CAUW recognized there were hundreds of places that someone in need could turn for support, but knowing which places were right for them proved to be difficult and frustrating. Seeing this need, CAUW launched and became the principal funder for 2-1-1, a free phone line that is a hub of all community resources. This allows those affected by hardship to get the information they need in one easy step from trained specialists.

While CAUW's mission has always focused on providing basic needs, ensuring necessary resources are available for residents and helping solve larger community issues, the delivery has changed. Instead of funding agencies, they now focus on developing collaborations amongst community partners to solve issues and serve residents. Not only does CAUW invest money into external programs, it also offers numerous programs of its own, such as VITA (volunteer income tax assistance), which provides free tax preparation assistance to low-income households. More than 3,800 households used this service in 2019, bringing \$4.8 million in tax refunds back into the budgets of those local families.

“[This job] is why I get out of bed every morning,” said Teresa Kmetz, president and CEO of CAUW. “Those who work and volunteer with us are dedicated to providing every person with the basic building blocks they need to have a good quality of life.”

CAUW requires data every six months from programs and collaborations that receive donor funding to demonstrate the progress toward improving lives or improving goals determined by CAUW. In the next 10 years, CAUW hopes to continue to invest in more collaborations that impact lives and engage more companies with issues that are important to them.

CAUW has been fundraising for the tri-county region for 100 years, and as the world around it has continued to change, so has its strategy for fundraising. CAUW fundraising used to be more transactional, receiving money from donors and putting it directly into programs. But now, it is more focused on creating partnerships with companies to help them find a cause they are passionate about. CAUW then finds ways to utilize skills the employees already have for volunteerism or to find programs that need additional funding partners.

To find the most relevant issues in the community, CAUW engages in listening tours throughout the community. CAUW is counted on to convene, align and facilitate initiatives to solve issues and surround residents with services they need during a crisis or to improve their lives.



In recent years, CAUW has found the importance of programs partnering together to solve specific issues in the community, and this year began encouraging that by funding collaborations in two of its three goals: improving education and creating financial stability.

“The value of these collaborations is by asking the question, how do we do the work better?,” said Kmetz.

In celebration of the huge impact Capital Area United Way has made over the last 100 years, including \$330 million of investment for local community resources, it is hosting a gala Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Michigan History Center. At the gala, attendees will learn about the history and the impact that CAUW has made on the community and its residents during a strolling dinner and beverage stations. A few local companies are even developing products to help celebrate: MSU Dairy Store released the “Red Feather” ice cream, Cravings Popcorn is creating a special flavor and Lansing Brewing Company also has a beer in the works.

If you are looking for a way to make a positive difference in your community and become more involved, Capital Area United Way is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. There are many ways to get involved, such as their board of directors, numerous committees and many hands-on projects in the office and at local agencies. They are always looking for a wide variety and diversity of thought, profession, experiences and background to ensure they are representing the entire community. If you are good with numbers or enjoy helping people with their finances, volunteers are always welcomed in the VITA program. For other ways to get involved with CAUW, visit www.micauw.org. ■

Join the Capital Area United Way 100th Anniversary Celebration

When: Saturday, Oct. 19

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Strolling dinner, beverages and live music

Where: Michigan Historical Museum

Michigan Library and Historical center

702 W. Kalamazoo St.

Lansing, MI 48933

Price: \$75 per ticket

RSVP: 517-203-5000

Dean Transportation Celebrates 50th Anniversary

ONE OF THE REGION'S MOST RECOGNIZED NAMES

and successful organizations is marking its golden anniversary. Dean Transportation serves school districts, intermediate school districts, universities, and municipalities providing transportation solutions throughout the state of Michigan and has become one of largest privately-owned transportation companies in the country.



Though widely known for its school bus service, the company has several divisions meeting a variety of transportation needs. Dean Transportation's school bus operation services over 125 School Districts and Intermediate School Districts in various capacities throughout Michigan, transporting nearly 80,000 students daily. Dean Transportation's sister company, Dean Trailways of Michigan, is a premier luxury transportation service provider. Dean Black Car offers a premier transportation solution for the traveling business executive, group, or individual who is looking for door to door transportation services.

Dean Transportation was established in the early 1950s by Mr. Eric Christensen. Mr. Christensen transported individuals affected by polio to Lansing area schools throughout the 1950s and the early 1960s. In 1969, Mr. Lyle Stephens formally founded Special Transportation, Inc. on Lansing's southside, and in 1986, Mr. Kellie Dean joined the company after a career in special education teaching. Special Transportation changed its name to Dean Transportation in 1991 upon Mr. Stephens retirement and sale to Mr. Dean.

Dean Transportation has made a significant impact on the specialized transportation industry through Stephens' and Dean's advocacy for the disabled. Legal action, with the help of Attorney Lynwood Beekman, was taken against the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation for their ongoing failure to develop federal guidelines to safely transport special needs individuals. After a five-year battle in Washington D.C., Dean Transportation's efforts helped force NHTSA to develop new equipment specifications for wheelchairs and wheelchair tie-down equipment, which is now available for the safety of our nation's disabled passengers.

Dean Transportation strives to be a good community partner. Whether through volunteerism, sponsorship or community outreach, Dean makes every effort to be involved. At the foundation of a community are children, who will one day be responsible for leading, mentoring and guiding our future. That is why Dean Transportation focuses on supporting organizations that provide educational opportunities to children and their families, most notably their commitment to Special Olympics and the Lansing Promise.

Dean Transportation has twice been named the top school bus company in North America, and was recently awarded two environmental awards for its commitment to clean transportation.

Kellie Dean and Dean Transportation have been recognized with dozens of well-deserved awards for their work in the industry and the Lansing region. Most recently Kellie was inducted into the National School Transportation Association Hall of Fame. In 1992, NSTA established the Hall of Fame Award to recognize the special contribution that many fine and talented NSTA members have made, and are making, to the school transportation industry. This award recognizes excellence in long-term efforts on behalf of the pupil transportation industry.

Congratulations to Dean Transportation on its first half-century of excellence. On to the next 50 years! ■



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER ECONOMIC CLUB
Presented by Mid-Michigan Travel Coalition

FALL 2019 ECONOMIC CLUB PREVIEW

SEPTEMBER 12: DR. SAMUEL L. STANLEY Jr., PRESIDENT, MSU

OCTOBER 17: ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI, FOUNDER & CO-MANAGING PARTNER, SKYBRIDGE CAPITAL

NOVEMBER 21: CORG 2019 CELEBRATION OF REGIONAL GROWTH AWARDS

DECEMBER 10: BILL ADAMS, SENIOR ECONOMIST, PNC

2019 ACCELERATION OF REGIONAL GROWTH

For more information, contact Ashlee Willis at MichiganPremierEvents@lansingchamber.org or 517-853-6463.



Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Jr.

The Next Chapter Begins at Michigan State University

A new era is underway at Michigan State University.

Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. began his tenure as 21st president in university history on Aug. 1, 2019.

“I am excited by this university’s upward trajectory in so many areas. I am eager to work with the entire MSU community as we meet the challenges before us,” said President Stanley. “I see enormous opportunity ahead, and I am committed to establishing with you a safer, more respectful and more caring campus. We have been called upon to write the next chapter in Michigan State University’s storied history. Together, we can make it a great one.”

President Stanley shared his thoughts with Focus Magazine on moving MSU into the next chapter, globally as well as closer to home.

1. What leadership principles benefitted you most at Stony Brook and how do you intend to apply them at MSU?

Having served as a university president for 10 years will be helpful as I take on this important role as the 21st president of Michigan State. At Stony Brook, we put in place a number of successful practices, principles and approaches that might have application here.

However, to begin, I’m focused on listening. Michigan State is a complex institution and I want to hear a variety of viewpoints. Leveraging that listening and my experience, we’ll work together to create a strategy and priorities that are deeply rooted in MSU’s land-grant tradition and the areas where this university, with its enormous scope and scale, can make a deep and lasting impact in this community, in our state and around the world. And, of course, in the lives of our students.

2. Michigan State is coming through the most tumultuous period in its history. What do you plan to do to promote healing and unity?

Again, listening comes first. There are a number of groups and individuals who need to be heard on this campus and throughout the area. I’m committed to making changes to our culture to promote a safer, more respectful and welcoming campus. As president, I will set the tone and look to the entire campus community to ensure we have made the right changes — and enough changes — to do our utmost to prevent sexual assault and relationship violence.

We have a highly engaged Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Expert Advisory Workgroup here at MSU, and I intend to continue to leverage its expertise. I’ve met with the workgroup and better understand the work accomplished in the year since it was formed. The workgroup is helping set up a series of meetings with sexual assault survivors and the survivor support community.

I was pleased to learn about the creation of the Prevention, Outreach and Education Department last year. Since then, it has provided customized in-person training and online learning to more than 72,000 campus community members.

I’m also looking forward to the results of a campus-wide survey conducted earlier this year sponsored by the workgroup. The results will provide information and insights on the culture, perceptions and policies associated with prevention, response and culture change.

This is an area of focus for me, and I encourage readers to go to msu.edu/ourcommitment as we continue to make improvements.

3. How do you view Michigan State University’s role as a leader in the Greater Lansing region?

A campus of this magnitude with more than 50,000 students and 13,000 faculty and staff has many direct and indirect impacts on the region. Of our \$5.8 billion statewide economic impact, about \$3.4 billion of it is focused on the central Michigan region and most of that is within the three nearest counties.

We have a large footprint, and I want the region’s businesses, governmental units and residents to see the university as a significant and positive contributor to the quality of life. As a major recruiter of both students and employees ourselves, we have a vested interest in the economic health of the community.

I was involved in economic development and other initiatives on Long Island when I was at Stony Brook, and I anticipate being active here in its proper time. I look forward to working with other leaders from the community to advance the interests of the region in all the ways we can.

4. What are your priorities in the first 12 months at MSU?

My initial priorities include making our campus even more respectful, aware, safe and welcoming; advancing the university’s core mission by expanding our focus on student success; growing on our accomplishments in research; and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion among our students, faculty and staff.

I also want to build an integrated strategy for the arts and humanities and embed a comprehensive plan for diversity, equity and inclusion throughout all that we do at MSU.

There is boundless potential here for greater accomplishment and excellence, and that's chiefly due to the quality of our people. That's why I'm very confident that we're going to get this right.

5. You have made a few trips to Lansing; what have been some of your favorite impressions?

The new construction going on, not just on campus, but around the whole community, is impressive. I'm thinking about the development along Michigan Avenue, in downtown East Lansing and Meridian Township. I think MSU brings some extraordinary assets to the community — the sports, museums, entertainment and other programs, as well as a beautiful 5,200-acre campus that is open for our neighbors to stroll and bike.

I've spoken with hundreds of people since I first visited in May, and I'm really moved by the affection people have for MSU, and especially the passion Spartans have for this university. It's exciting to be part of that.

6. Talent attraction and retention is the number one issue among employers in the region. What do you see as MSU's role in helping the region to retain talent?

Talent is the No. 1 issue for employers everywhere, and that includes MSU. It's a competitive marketplace for top talent whether you're producing a product, offering a service or preparing the next generation for what we know will be a dynamic 21st century. MSU is a big recruiter of top talent, not just from around the state or the country, but from around the world.

Our annual graduate destination surveys indicate that about two-thirds of Michigan State's graduates remain in Michigan, and a lot of them stay here and contribute their energy and new ideas to this community.

I'm also sure that the talented Spartans who are seeking their degrees or working here make innumerable contributions to the area's diversity and the civic, philanthropic and cultural life of the community. That improves quality of life and the region's desirability to prospective employees of all industries.

7. What experiences have you had in building business/education partnerships and how would you like to apply them in your new role?

At Stony Brook, I served on the boards of Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, the Long Island Association, the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council and Accelerate Long Island, among other points of involvement.

As vice chancellor for research at Washington University in St. Louis, I dealt with a lot of technology transfer to the private sector. I think there is great potential for university and business partnerships, and I continue to be impressed with the ones I see at MSU.



I see enormous opportunity ahead, and I am committed to establishing with you a safer, more respectful and more caring campus. We have been called upon to write the next chapter in Michigan State University's storied history. Together, we can make it a great one."

The MSU Foundation, in particular, is engaged with a range of technology transfer and entrepreneurship programs including student and community business incubators. The foundation, in fact, is opening a specialized business incubator in East Lansing in September.

8. What do you feel are the greatest strengths of Michigan State University?

MSU's impact, scope and scale, and the tremendous potential we have for more exceptional achievements is what brought me here.

Then there are less tangible things that might come under the heading of "Spartan Spirit." That's a mighty force, especially when you consider our campus community plus the 576,000 alumni living around the world. If you wear an MSU hat just about anywhere, sooner or later, somebody is going to yell, "Go Green."

9. This community has been very supportive of and anxiously awaiting the opening of FRIB. What does this project mean for MSU, the community and the world?

We submitted our proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy in 2008, and I know people are looking forward to the start of operations. Completion is officially planned for 2022, but the program is being managed for early completion in 2021.

The nation's No. 1 ranked nuclear physics graduate program is at MSU, and we educate about 10% of the nation's nuclear science Ph.Ds. The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, or FRIB, will further solidify MSU's status as a leader in nuclear science education and research. It will make this region a magnet for 1,400 scientist-users from around the world.

One of the exciting aspects of a major research university is that we not only teach, but we also create new knowledge. FRIB's nuclear science program will enable discoveries about the properties of rare isotopes, nuclear astrophysics, fundamental interactions and applications in medicine, homeland security and a variety of industries. We will train the next generation of accelerator scientists and engineers to fulfill critical workforce needs in several specialized areas.

Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Jr.

The Next Chapter Begins at Michigan State University

From construction through operation, FRIB is expected to generate accumulated wages totaling \$1.7 billion and add \$4.4 billion to the state's economy. FRIB was expected to create up to 1,500 Michigan jobs at the height of the construction phase, and about 1,000 permanent jobs during operations.

It's also given us another channel for community engagement. The FRIB team has held a great many open houses, tours and school programs. Most recently, they collaborated with the Impression 5 Science Center on a fun nuclear science exhibit that we think will help inspire the next generation of scientists.

10. How do you as MSU president plan to advance MSU's leadership position in STEM-related research and leverage that expertise in ways that draw top students and faculty in STEM-based areas to East Lansing?

Michigan State has continued to improve its position as a top research university. Our annual research expenditures have grown 35% since 2013 to about \$700 million.

Our ongoing Global Impact Initiative involves recruiting more than 100 new faculty investigators to help accelerate solutions to what we call "grand challenges." It's going to move MSU forward in high-impact areas, allowing us to aggressively pursue big ideas, innovation and global reach.

On the instructional side, over the past 10 years, enrolled credit hours in STEM and STEM-related courses have increased by about 40% at MSU. The new undergraduate STEM Teaching and Learning Facility is slated to open next year and will not only leverage MSU's latest STEM teaching research but facilitate scientific interactions at the undergraduate student level. It will

improve our competitiveness for talented students and promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

We're also completing construction of an Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building, which is part of an initiative to provide modern teaching and interdisciplinary research space to support growth in STEM-related fields.

11. How do you see MSU strengthening its leadership position in other research-based areas, most notably, agriculture?

I mentioned the MSU Global Impact Initiative already. We're going to focus new and enhanced research around energy, health, education, the environment — including plant and food sciences — national security and global development. We also are targeting emerging priority areas including advanced mobility, computation, advanced engineering, genomics, antibiotic resistance, precision medicine and advanced physical sciences.

MSU will remain committed to helping build a prosperous food and agriculture economy in Michigan, which has the second most diverse agricultural product sector in the nation. That means there are a lot of different needs — and a lot of different challenges. Today, those include our increasing MSU Extension focus on helping farmers cope with the heavy psychological challenges they face generation after generation. This year, of course, the weather is laying more than its usual share of stress on farm families.

Such initiatives are a good example of how MSU applies knowledge we gain from partnering with our Michigan stakeholders to help overcome the issues confronting them. That's part of our continuing land-grant mission. ■

Meet MSU President Samuel L. Stanley

Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr. was selected by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees as MSU's 21st president, effective Aug. 1, 2019.

Born in Seattle, Dr. Stanley earned a Bachelor of Arts in biological sciences (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Chicago. After earning his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1980, he completed resident-physician training at Massachusetts General Hospital and then went to Washington University in St. Louis in 1983 for a School of Medicine fellowship in infectious diseases. There, he became a professor in the departments of both medicine and molecular microbiology in recognition of the collaborative nature of his research.

A distinguished biomedical researcher, Dr. Stanley was one of the nation's highest recipients of support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his research focusing on enhanced defense against emerging infectious diseases. He is an expert in the biological mechanisms that cells employ when responding to infectious agents such as parasites, bacteria and viruses — a process known as the inflammatory response.

In 2006, Dr. Stanley was appointed vice chancellor for research at Washington University, serving in that position until he was appointed president of Stony Brook University in New York in 2009.

As the fifth president of Stony Brook, Dr. Stanley recorded the most successful fundraising year in the university's history and championed legislation that helped Stony Brook hire more than 240 new faculty over five years. He chaired the board of Brookhaven Science Associates, which manages Brookhaven National Laboratory on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Stanley served as chair of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, which advises the United States government on issues related to the communication, dissemination and performance of sensitive biological research. He was a member of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council at the NIH and a member of the NIH Director's Blue Ribbon Panel on the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories. He also served as an ambassador for the Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research and has received

an honorary doctorate degree in science from Konkuk University in South Korea. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and has served on the NCAA Board of Directors and NCAA Board of Governors.

A researcher, patent holder and former technology transfer executive, Dr. Stanley supports academic and industry collaborations to leverage their economic impact and the potentially enormous contributions they can make to society. His extensive experience gives him invaluable perspective on the emerging field of translational research. Dr. Stanley also continues to work as a strong advocate for federal funding of basic research, working through organizations such as the AAU to promote the critical role of university research in innovation and discovery.

President Stanley's wife, Ellen Li, M.D., Ph.D., is a distinguished biomedical researcher and gastroenterologist. In addition to her roles as a clinician and scientist, Dr. Li tutors students in chemistry and has mentored many students interested in biomedical research. Drs. Stanley and Li have four children. ■



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Preserving Dr. King’s Legacy

BY ELAINE HARDY, CHAIRWOMAN, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION OF MID-MICHIGAN

PRESERVING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING’S LEGACY is always the filter used by the Commission bearing his name said Elaine Hardy, the chairperson of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Commission of Mid Michigan. Forty-two years ago, business and community leaders came together to work toward federal legislation for a King Holiday. Today, the work of the commission is just as meaningful and impactful; as it has grown to include a community pilgrimage; art exhibits; essay and scholarship contests; community conversations, concerts; and our most notable community event, the annual luncheon.



Hardy

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Commission of Mid Michigan is a non-profit, elected body comprised of volunteer representatives dedicated to preserving the legacy and teachings of Dr. King by supporting community agencies, and empowering youth to achieve educational goals.

The commission sponsors a delegation of 40 high school students to attend Y-Achievers black college tour annually; awards over \$100,000 in scholarships; more than \$60,000 in grants to community service agencies; and sponsored a delegation of commissioners and citizens to attend the opening and dedication of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Our signature event is the annual luncheon; although the word luncheon doesn’t truly represent the day; it really is more of a day of celebration. The “luncheon” has become the place to be on Dr. King’s Holiday because of the caliber of speakers and entertainers we attract. We have been honored to have U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, Freedom Rider Diane Nash, and U.S. first elected African American Governor Douglas Wilder along with gospel giants Tamela Mann, CeCe Winans and Donnie McClurkin.

Last year, we honored the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination on the steps of the Capitol with a Bell Ringing Ceremony; our guest of honor was Mrs. Mary Ellen Norwood Ford; the eyewitness to Dr. King’s assassination.

The commission is also becoming known for thought provoking community conversations; with 2019’s topic on The Muslim Ban; The Wall and Mass shootings.

One of the highlights in 2020 will be the partnership with the Wharton Center as they bring We Shall Overcome; A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Feb. 14, 2020. Finally, please join us for our Day of Celebration “luncheon” on Jan. 20, 2020. ■

Martin



Historic Temple Building For Sale

217 S. Capitol Avenue / 109,000 SF

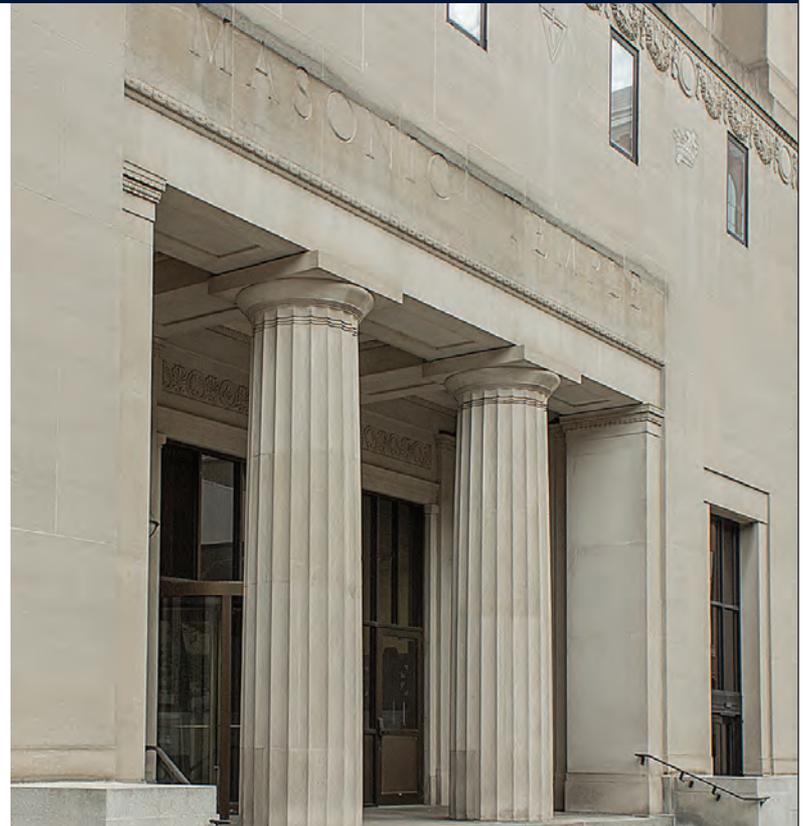
Features

- Located less than a block from the State Capitol and within walking distance to all of the downtown amenities.
- No other space of this size located in downtown Lansing is currently for sale.
- The seven-story building is in good condition and some spaces have retained their art deco features finishes and fixtures.
- The 2-story auditorium is perfect for an owner needing large meeting space or event venue.

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Michigan's Best Kept Secret: The Aerospace Industry

BY TONY VERNACI, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF MICHIGAN, they think of our beautiful great lakes and our rich automotive history. But little do they know about our aerospace industry, which has been a leader in the nation for the nearly 80 years. Michigan's aerospace industry really is our best kept secret and the gold standard of reports — the PricewaterhouseCooper's (PwC) "Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness" — agrees.

PwC has consistently ranked Michigan as a top 10 state for Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness. In 2018, we were ranked 8th in the nation. This year, the Aerospace Industry Association of Michigan (AIAM) worked hand-in-glove with PwC to ensure Michigan's aerospace assets were fully evaluated as part of the ranking process. This hard work paid off. PwC's 2019 report ranks Michigan 4th in the nation and the best in the Midwest. Some of those organizations that made our rise in the rankings possible are right here in Lansing, including the Capital Region International Airport and Pratt & Whitney AutoAir, Inc.

Beyond its convenience and location, the Capital Region International Airport, an AIAM member, is mid-Michigan's gateway to the world with an annual economic impact of \$1 billion and hundreds of thousands of travelers flying out each year. It is also a key component to Michigan's growing aerospace industry. Port Lansing, the Capital Region International Airport's global logistics park, has room for both current and prospective tenants to grow as their business develops, and is an international port of entry allowing easy import and export opportunities and global connectivity.



Vernaci

Another proud local AIAM member is Pratt & Whitney AutoAir, Inc. Specializing in OEM, O&R Core, O&R Thrust Reverser, and Testing Equipment, Pratt & Whitney AutoAir, Inc. is a world leader in the design, manufacturing, and service of aircraft engines and auxiliary power units. That's why they work with an explorer's heart and a perfectionist's grit to design, build, and service the world's most advanced and unrelenting aircraft engines. They do this as a way of turning the possibilities into realities — so their customers can connect people, grow economies, and protect the world.

AIAM is proud to have members from across the state that help elevate Michigan's long-history in the aerospace industry. Lansing is fortunate to have great aerospace organizations in their community that positively impact the local economy by hiring workers in the region and contributing to the growth of our state. As the aerospace industry in Michigan continues to expand and rise in national rankings through initiatives like the PwC Aerospace Manufacturing Attractive report, the Capital Region International Airport and Pratt & Whitney AutoAir, Inc. will be leaders in its growth!

AIAM is a non-profit, member-driven organization that serves as a platform for aerospace leaders in academia, business, and other fields to set priorities and grow the aerospace industry. We welcome you to learn more about our work and join our efforts by visiting www.aiamnow.com. ■

ATHENA WIN

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PEOPLE NEWS



What's the secret to staying married for 70 years? For **Bob and Mary Huelsman**, the answer is simple: Find someone you love to spend time with, and learn to be compatible.

Bob and Mary met on a blind date when Mary was a senior in high school, and the rest is history. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on July 15, 2019. Their commitment to being with each other carries on when the Huelsmans volunteer at **McLaren Greater Lansing**. In total, the couple has racked up more than 11,300 volunteer hours at both hospital campuses over the past two decades. That's more than four full years of work at a 40-hour-a-week job.



Simmons

Elwood Staffing is excited to announce the addition of **Nathan Simmons** to its Lansing office as the new manager of business development. Nathan's expertise lies in taking a data-driven approach to evaluating the staffing needs of local area companies and providing contingent workforce solutions. The Elwood Lansing team has a combined 30+ years of recruiting experience in the local market and a tireless passion to serve employers and job seekers. Nathan believes there is a job that fits every person and a person that fits every job, and when that pairing is done right, great things happen—communities grow, businesses prosper, and friends and neighbors thrive.



Echelbarger

Kalamazoo based **First National Bank of Michigan** appointed **David G. Echelbarger** to its Board of Directors. Mr. Echelbarger is the managing partner at Echelbarger, Himebaugh, Tamm & Co., P.C. based in Grand Rapids. David will serve on the Information Technology Steering committee.



Dennis



Nelson



Starmer



Eary



McAnallen

Ngage Management is excited to once again announce more growth with the addition of two new

clients, the Michigan Society of Healthcare Risk Management and Oklahoma Nurses Association. This summer Ngage has also expanded their team with five new positions. **Nicole Dennis, CMP**, director of client relations, **Jane Nelson, CAE** as executive director; **Andrea Starmer, CMP** as event planner, **Patricia Eary** as office manager and **Valerie McAnallen** as event coordinator. Ngage provides full association and event management for three national associations, one international association and thirteen state associations.



Van Horn

Willingham & Coté, P.C. law firm of East Lansing is proud to announce that **Mr. Joseph Van Horn** has been elected to the status of shareholder. Van Horn has been with the firm a little over one year and is an essential part of the firm's busy and successful Medical Malpractice Defense team. Van Horn primarily represents insurance clients involved in medical malpractice and no-fault insurance cases.



Tuck



Thelen

LAFUCU has promoted **Justin Tuck** to assistant vice president of operations and **Amy Thelen** to human

resources generalist. Tuck will be responsible for operations, including teller and lending functions, as well as staff supervision at the South Lansing and Collins Road branches. Thelen will oversee recruiting, benefits administration and retiree relations.



Ray

McLaren Greater Lansing president & CEO **Kirk Ray** has been elected to the **University Club of MSU's** Board of Directors. Ray leads McLaren Greater Lansing's two hospitals while overseeing the construction and opening of a new, state-of-the-art \$450 million health care campus in Lansing, adjacent to the University Club.

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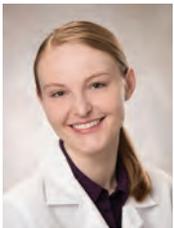
Tyler

Capital Area United Way is pleased to welcome **David Tyler** to its team as senior business development associate. Tyler leads corporate partnership development with an emphasis on helping businesses create philanthropic programs that align their core service or product to charitable issues.



Smith

LAFCU has announced the appointment of **Jason Smith** as chief lending officer. In this position, Smith serves as principal advisor to the LAFCU CEO and board of directors concerning lending strategies and risk management. The 20-year veteran of credit unions joined LAFCU in 2018 when it merged with Lansing Postal Community Credit Union of which Smith was CEO/general manager.



Denholm

Sparrow Medical Group Stanton is pleased to welcome **Carli Denholm, M.D.**, to its practice. Dr. Denholm received her medical doctorate from Wayne State University School of Medicine in 2016 and completed her Internal Medicine residency with Detroit Medical Center in June 2019. She enjoys working with patients ages 18 and older to assist with diverse disease management needs, such as diabetes and hypertension, and also focuses on women's healthcare needs.



SMG OB/GYN Carson Physician **Michelle Becher, D.O.**, (center) is honored by (from left) **Bill Roeser**, Sparrow Carson Hospital President and CEO, and **Douglas Edema, M.D.**, Vice President of Sparrow Medical Group. Dr. Becher was recognized for performing 1,000 daVinci Surgical System procedures at Sparrow Carson Hospital, a rare and extraordinary milestone

Sparrow Medical Group OB/GYN Carson Physician **Michelle Becher, D.O.**, was recently recognized for an extraordinary milestone: performing 1,000 daVinci Surgical System procedures at Sparrow Carson Hospital. Dr. Becher is one of a handful of surgeons in Michigan to reach the milestone, and the number of lives positively impacted by her surgical talents with the use of the system is astounding.

COMPANY NEWS

Lansing-based **Edge Partnerships** announced that a demand for personal, tailored marketing services has prompted the marketing agency's expansion to Chicago. Founded in 2007 by business partners Lorri Rishar and Angela Witwer, Edge has grown into a multimillion-dollar agency serving state and national clients. The Edge Chicago office is located at 1039 W. Dakin St., Chicago.

East Lansing accounting firms **Warmels & Comstock** and **Layton & Richardson** have merged with **Clark Schaefer Hackett (CSH)**, a top 100 CPA and advisory firm. Warmels & Comstock and Layton & Richardson have proudly served the

Greater Lansing community for over 50 years. As part of CSH, they will continue to provide accounting and tax solutions to businesses and individuals and dramatically expand their business advisory services to include Data Analytics, Strategic HR, Operational Process Improvement, Technology and more. Layton & Richardson will relocate to Warmels & Comstock's current 3505 Coolidge Road office location. This office will grow to include approximately 50 professionals, including four shareholders.



Campgrounds-R-US was pleased to host their first annual Western Weekend. On June 22, over 100 campers and local community residents gathered to enjoy a pot-luck pig roast, live entertainment, and s'mores around the campfire celebrating summertime. Established in 2011, Campgrounds-R-US is a family owned campground in Owosso that offers a wide range of recreational activities including swimming, fishing, and miles of trails for you to explore. Currently open through October 31, they have a wonderful team of professionals who are ready to assist you with your next outdoor adventure.

The July 2019 issue of Venues Today ranks **Michigan State University's Wharton Center** for Performing Arts at number ten internationally for venues with a capacity of 2,001 to 5,000 seats. The ranking is based on mid-year gross figures from November 2018 through May 2019. The number ten ranking was



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based on the *HAMILTON* gross during the week of May 21-26, which was \$2,591,188. The magazine also ranks Wharton Center's 2019 engagement of *HAMILTON* at number one for both the gross dollar amount and tickets sold from May 2019 to June 2019. Pollstar magazine's mid-year issue ranks Wharton Center at #51 in the top 200 theatre venues in the world, regardless of size. This ranking is based on ticket sales.

Sparrow has achieved redesignation as a Magnet® Nursing Hospital, placing it among an elite group nationwide that have the highest level of nursing excellence. This recognition, announced by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program®, is the nation's most prestigious honor for nursing achievement and is considered the "gold standard" for nursing care in hospitals.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Maner Costerisan** has been recognized by *Accounting Today* as one of 2019's Best Accounting Firms to Work For. As the premier locally owned CPA firm in mid-Michigan, Maner Costerisan is proud to be identified as a firm that excels in creating a quality work environment for its employees.

Horizon Bancorp, Inc. rang the NASDAQ Opening

Bell in Times Square, New York at 9:30 a.m. EDT Monday Aug. 5, 2019. **Craig Dwight**, Horizon's chairman and chief executive officer, along with current and past executive leadership participated in the opening bell ringing ceremony. The ceremony celebrated 146 years in business and reaching over \$5 billion in total bank assets by the end of the second quarter of this year – a new milestone for the company.



When a new refrigerated truck was needed to continue the **Greater Lansing Food Bank's** increasingly popular Food Movers program, Kroger put the pedal to the metal and provided the needed funds. The truck was purchased with help from the Kroger Foundation through The Kroger Co.–Michigan Division, and at the Aug. 1 dedication of the truck, Kroger presented a surprise \$15,050 donation to additionally support the food bank's programs.



Moore Trosper President Ted Moore and MLEOM Monument Fund Commission Chairperson Lin Emmert stand by the monument's recognition wall at the dedication. Emmert is mother to fallen officer Scott Flahive.

Moore Trosper Construction Company, based in Holt, completed the site work for the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument, dedicated July 27. Work began October 2018. The July 27 dedication was attended by hundreds of people from across the state, including survivors and friends of Michigan's fallen law enforcement officers as well as active and retired officers. Moore Trosper's scope of work included all structural and concrete pavement work, electrical, pavers and landscaping.

MSU Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU) has announced that it is again a Great Place to Work-Certified™ for the sixth consecutive year. Using validated employee feedback gathered with

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Great Place to Work's data-driven methodology, certification confirms seven out of 10 employees have a consistently positive experience at MSUFCU.



The Davies Project has moved to the old Firehouse No. 4 on Bingham Street - just down from Sparrow's front door. It was a big collaborative effort and they are very appreciative to the Two Men and A Truck crew who moved everything on a hot and sweaty day. They made stops at **Dean Transportation**, the **Eyde Company** and Fenner Nature Center to pick up donated furniture to outfit the work areas. The Rotary Club of Lansing foundation provided a grant to help furnish a family resource and respite room. They are grateful to the community for their support of children's health and hope for families.

Domestic production of a key medical radioisotope took another big step toward reality in Michigan. Lansing based **Niowave, Inc.** finalized a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) in late July. The agreement comes as part of an industry outreach initiative to establish reliable domestic molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) production without the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU). The cooperative agreement lasts 3 years, and funding will be used to continue expanding production capability for Mo-99 at Niowave facilities. Niowave has been producing small quantities of Mo-99 since 2016 under licenses from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Molybdenum-99 is the most commonly used medical isotope in the world, with over 30 million procedures annually.

Blighted structures leave psychological impact anywhere, but the effect is quickly amplified in small communities, including the Village of Dansville. A point noted by Village leaders and the **Ingham County Economic Development Council** who sought guidance and assistance from the **Lansing Economic Partnership (LEAP)**, resulting in the recent acquisition of a \$15,000 Neighborhood Enhancement Program. Half of the grant funds will go toward home improvements for special populations most in need and will involve an application process.

The remaining half will go toward the community pavilion. The Village of Dansville looks forward to investing in these improvements starting in September 2019.



Mitchell

Jungle Jane Promotions is celebrating their 25th Anniversary. Jane Mitchell added promotional products to her card sending business, "Cards 4 You" at the height of the housing boom. As the housing market waned, her marketing side grew. Achieving her MAS (Masters Advertising Specialist) certification placed her in the top 2% of her industry. Jane credits becoming a marketing consultant (working from the desired result towards a product that will achieve this) and the strong personal relationships she has with her clients for her success.

The Capital Area United Way received a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MHSDA) for the City of Eaton Rapids to continue its work of community change and improving the lives of local residents. The MSHDA grant of \$50,000 along with \$5,500 in matching funds from the City of Eaton Rapids will be used to repair owner-occupied homes that are unsafe or are in risk of foreclosure due to non-compliance with city codes. ■



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Join the Growing Leadership Lansing Community

BY DR. CARMEN THOMAS AND ROBYN HOWELL

EMERGING LEADERS IN THE LANSING AREA have an opportunity to become part of an important network of business and community leaders committed to helping the region achieve its full potential as a world-class community.

Leadership Lansing, a talent initiative of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, will launch its fifth cohort this fall. If you are interested in connecting with other outstanding leaders and developing a deeper understanding of our region and the issues we face, please consider enrolling in this year's program.



Thomas



Howell

The mission of Leadership Lansing is to help develop and equip the next generation of community leaders, and as proud graduates of the 2018-19 cohort, we can testify that the program is not only meeting but exceeding its mission. During the past year, we got to go on behind-the-scenes visits to General Motors Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant, Michigan State University's Brody Square and Breslin Center, the Wilson Talent Center in Mason, Peckham, Granger, Sparrow Hospital, the Michigan State Capitol, Impression 5 Science Center and more.

We enjoyed an excellent roster of speakers and panel discussions on topics like diversity and inclusion, the importance of our non-profit sector, local and state government officials and lobbying. Additionally, we had the opportunity to work on our individual leadership skills, including a Strengthfinders assessment and exposure to professional development and business coaching.

Perhaps the most important component of Leadership Lansing is the ability to connect with other leaders from all different sectors of our community. We developed valuable relationships through a myriad of networking opportunities that we will carry forward for the rest of our careers.

Networking with other leaders made us more aware of the vast opportunities that exist to help us and our businesses become more successful.

Even more exciting, the 155 individuals who graduated from Leadership Lansing in the past four years have formed an alumni group called the Leadership Lansing Community. The mission of the group is to leverage the collective leadership clout of all the alumni to do great things in the region, particularly in promoting brand ambassadors and supporting the work being done by non-profits in the region.

We would like to make a special appeal to women and minority leaders in our region to join the Leadership Lansing movement. Diversity in leadership isn't inevitable, so companies need to be intentional. If we are to be a welcoming region that celebrates and embraces diversity and inclusion, it is imperative that we build a diverse leadership network that reflects and actively supports a genuine commitment to those principles.

If what we have described gets you excited, please consider submitting an application for yourself or an emerging leader in your organization for this year's Leadership Lansing cohort. Applications may be obtained through the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce at lansingchamber.org/LeadershipLansing. We would love to have you as part of the growing Leadership Lansing Community! ■

Dr. Carmen Thomas is Founder/Executive Director for Transformation GEMS.

Robyn Howell is vice president human resource for LAFUCU.



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On Aug. 16, the Lansing Regional Chamber was pleased to collaborate with the Shiawassee Chamber, local officials, residents and the Owosso community to celebrate the grand opening of **Campgrounds-R-Us**' new convenience store. Guests enjoyed food, drinks and an ice cream social, while experiencing a wide range of recreational activities such as swimming, paddle boarding, tetherball, beach volleyball, kayaking, and miles of trails ready for exploration. Located just five minutes west of Owosso, the large spacious campsites are designed to host RVs, pop-ups and tents. The new store features a multitude of products from snacks to souvenirs, and this year, the store will even offer an assortment of stylish apparel. The team at Campgrounds-R-Us is ready to welcome you to this hidden gem.



On Aug. 12, **Cantina Eastwood**, Lansing's first high-end Mexican restaurant, had their grand opening and ribbon cutting. Located at 2328 Showtime Drive in Lansing, Cantina Eastwood adds to the growing number of restaurants and high quality stores moving into Eastwood Towne Center.



On August 7, the Lansing Regional Chamber was pleased to host a ribbon cutting celebration for **Mode Health**, a newly launched healthcare literacy, navigation and solutions provider. Created by Eric Hannah who has about two decades of experience in the healthcare industry, Mode Health introduces an innovative approach to employee benefits that puts employers and employees in charge of their own care. "Most of us in the healthcare system are frustrated: healthcare providers with how they're paid for services, employers with how they buy benefits and employees with insurance products that don't fit their unique personal health needs," said Eric. "It's time to demand better and take charge with a strategy that fits our own unique mode."

Our big scissors have been busy welcoming new businesses to the Lansing region, recognizing momentous milestones and celebrating growth and expansions! Having the Chamber host a ribbon cutting for your company is a great opportunity to build public awareness about your business and the growth or changes that you are experiencing. The Chamber's ribbon cutting and groundbreaking services should be an important part of your overall marketing and advertising plan. We provide the camera, red ribbon, and of course, the big scissors!

For more information about Chamber ribbon cutting services, please contact Michelle Rahl at 517-853-6457, mrahl@lansingchamber.org or Christine Zarkovich at 517-853-6456, czarkovich@lansingchamber.org.



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