

FOCUS

THE MONTHLY BUSINESS NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNE 2026

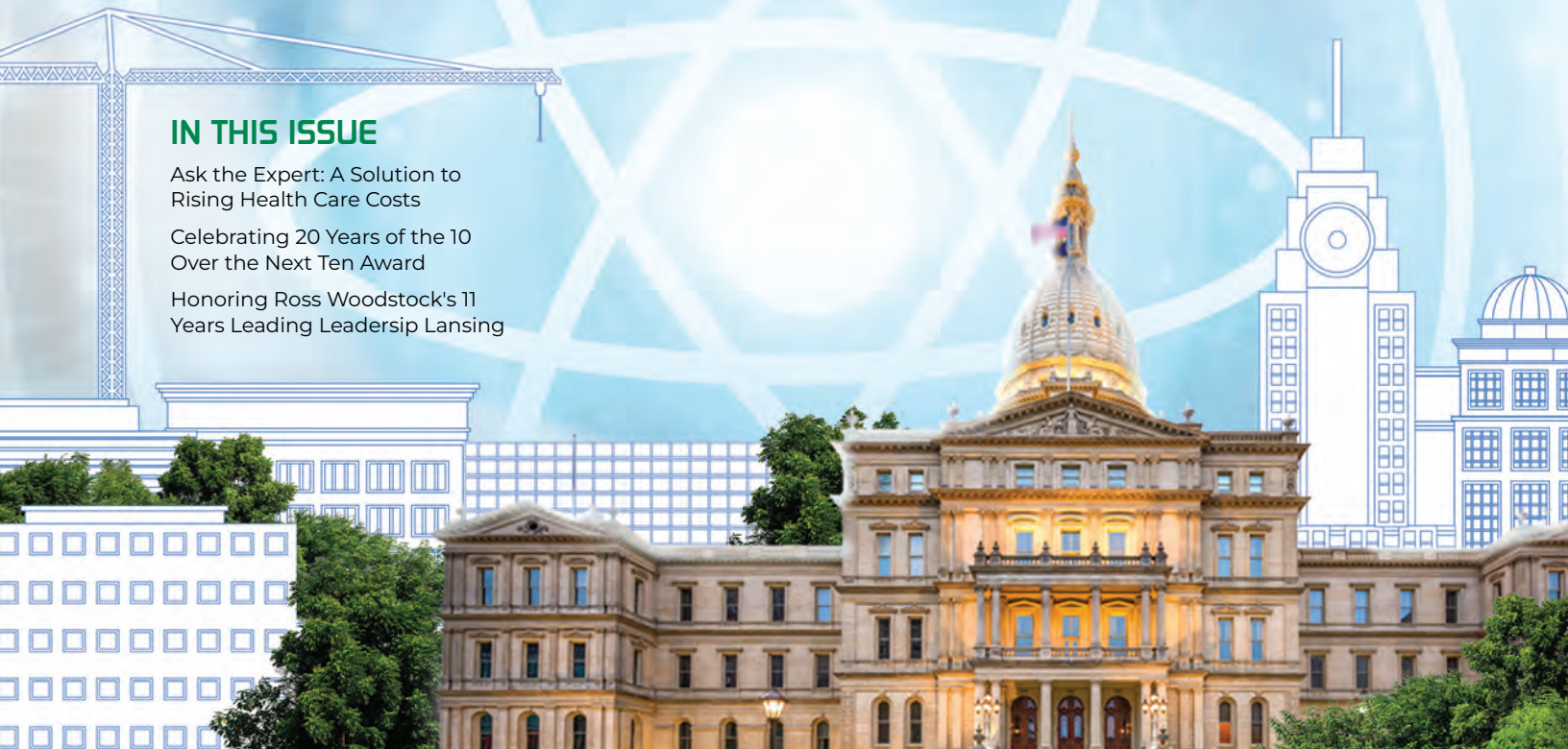
CELEBRATING INNOVATION IN GREATER LANSING

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Rising Health Care Costs

Celebrating 20 Years of the 10
Over the Next Ten Award

Honoring Ross Woodstock's 11
Years Leading Leadersip Lansing





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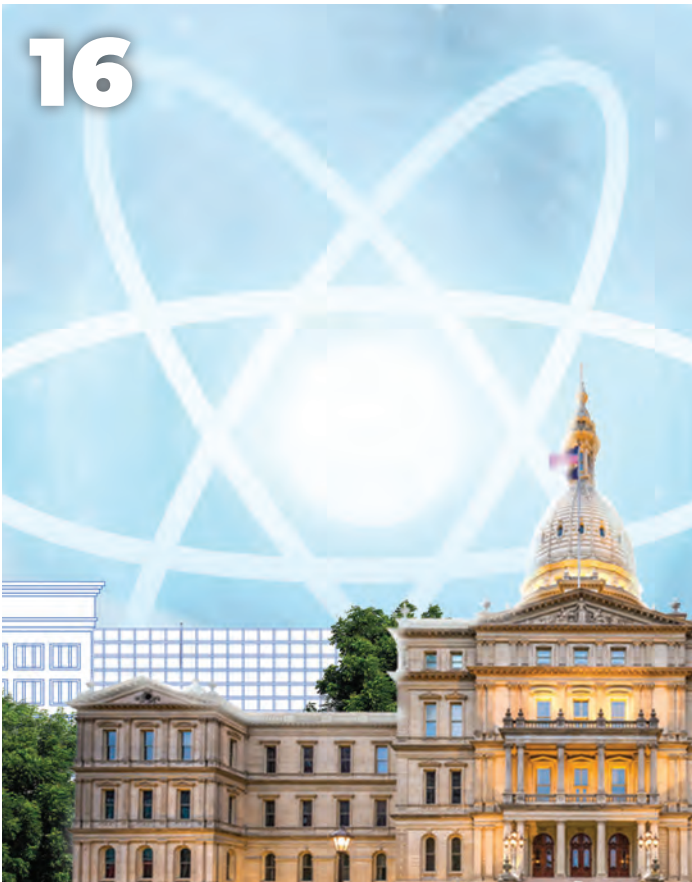
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LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

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TIM DAMAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO
LANSING REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



“
Together, we are creating a future where research becomes opportunity and entrepreneurship and economic development drives prosperity.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER

Lansing Region Emerges as a Hub for Innovation and Growth

Innovation is driving the future of the Lansing region, and the data clearly shows that momentum is accelerating. As home to Michigan State University, one of the nation's leading global research universities, we benefit from a powerful ecosystem of research, talent, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer. The impact of that innovation extends far beyond campus, fueling business growth, attracting investment, and creating career opportunities throughout the region.

Looking back at the Lansing Regional Chamber's 2025 State of the Region Report, it continues to reiterate the growth and significant progress of innovation indicators in our regional economy.

Key findings include:

- ✓ High tech employment in the Lansing region grew by 12.2% with more than 11% of the region's workforce employed in industries including advanced manufacturing, engineering, information technology, and research and development.
- ✓ Regional GDP increased by more than 10% between reaching nearly \$29.3 billion.
- ✓ STEM degrees accounted for 24.2% of all degrees awarded in the region the third highest share among peer communities.
- ✓ Venture capital deal flow increased by 254.1% representing the highest increase among peer regions.
- ✓ Business establishments in the Lansing region grew by 16.6% supporting a vibrant and growing economy.
- ✓ The Lansing region has one of the highest shares of Gen Z residents among peer regions, positioning the community with a strong pipeline of future talent entering the workforce.

Innovation and entrepreneurship continue to thrive through partnerships between Michigan State University, the MSU Research Foundation, LEAP , and the business community. MSU's research expenditures exceeded \$990 million in 2025, supporting discoveries and technologies that are advancing industries ranging from healthcare and medical technology to mobility, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing.

Companies like Niowave continue to demonstrate the strength of this ecosystem through ongoing investment and expansion in our community. Niowave's recent investment of more than \$50 million in its radioisotope manufacturing facility expansion reflects both the power of research commercialization and the company's continued confidence in the Lansing region.

Our region is aligned in supporting the partnerships, talent development efforts, and economic strategies that help innovation thrive. Together, we are creating a future where research becomes opportunity and entrepreneurship and economic development drives prosperity. ♦

Thank You Renewing Members

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Air Lift Company
Axios HR
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Dykema Gossett
Flatz Living - Simtob Management
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Fuerstenau Agency - Farm Bureau
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Gillespie Group
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Habitat for Humanity Capital Region
Harrison Roadhouse
High Five The Drew Stanton
Foundation
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Hylant
L.D. Clark Companies
La Fille Gallery
Lansing Regional Sister Cities
Commission
Life Insurance Association of
Michigan
Los Tres Amigos
Matrix Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Meijer Inc.
Meridian Charter Township
MH Specialist, Inc.
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Michigan State University
Foundation
Mid-Michigan Mechanical
Contractors Association
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Recovery Project, The
Rise Up Heating and Cooling
Riverwalk Theatre (Community
Circle Players)

Rooted Real Estate at RE/MAX Real
Estate Professional
T.H. Eifert, LLC Mechanical
Contractors
Transnation Title Agency of
Michigan (TTA of Michigan Central
Division)
Tri-County Regional Planning
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A large, semi-transparent green graphic of the Michigan State Capitol building is positioned on the right side of the advertisement. The building's dome and classical architectural details are visible through the green overlay.

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spartankravmaga.com
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Lansing, MI 48908

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www.rundezvousllc.com
108 W. Grand River Ave.
Williamston, MI 48895

Spartan Printing & Promotional Products
(517) 372-6910
www.printspartan.com
15551 S. U.S. 27
Lansing MI, 48906-1481

EssDee and Co.
(517) 449-3411
essdeeandco.com
East Lansing MI, 48823

KPOT
(517) 580-3171
thekpot.com/menu
5924 W Saginaw Hwy
Lansing MI, 48917-2461

Great Lakes Vending Services
(517) 323-4995
greatlakesvendingllc.com
Lansing MI, 48906

Doggy Daycare and Spa - Okemos
(517) 333-9663
doggydaycareandspa.com
1284 W. Grand River Avenue
Okemos MI, 48864

The Cancer & Hematology Centers
(800) 411-7999
www.thechc.com
5800 Foremost Dr SE
Grand Rapids MI, Grand Rapids

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists - Lansing Patient Care
(517) 299-0535
www.orsmi.com/locations/ors-lansing-patient-care-dr
3401 Patient Care Dr.
Suite 102
Lansing MI, 48911

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists - Okemos
(517) 220-4540
www.orsmi.com/locations/ors-okemos
5100 Marsh Rd
Okemos MI, 48864

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists - Gateway Lofts
(517) 784-0037
www.orsmi.com/locations/ors-lansing-gateway-lofts
3108 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing MI, 48912

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists - Holt
(517) 268-9040
www.orsmi.com/locations/ors-holt
2040 N Aurelius Rd
Holt MI, 48842

Glenbrier Golf Course
(517) 625-3800
glenbrier.com
4178 W. Locke Rd.
Perry MI, 48872



Chamber Milestones

Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C.
50 years

Michigan Legislative Consultants
35 years

Capitol Fundraising Associates
30 years

Spartan Water & Coffee Service
30 years

Candlewood Suites Lansing
20 years

Burcham Hills A Life Plan Community
15 years

K&P McClure Leasing Inc
10 years

Lansing Brewing Company
10 years

ML & L Insurance Agency LLC (Meiers Lombardini Lemanski Insurance)
10 years

Washington Avenue Advisors
10 years

Lansing Junk Removal
5 years

Lighthouse Limousine
5 years

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists - West Lansing
5 years

We'd like to offer a special salute to these great organizations who reached milestone anniversaries as Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce members this month. Thank you for your continued support throughout the years!

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Innovation Wears Many Faces

By Sarah Bakken

When we talk about innovation, our imaginations often jump to laboratories, gleaming accelerators, and breakthrough patents pinned to corkboards. Innovation is all of that, but it is also so much more.

Innovation is the colleague who reimagines a stale process. It is the leader who asks “what if?” when the room has settled into “this is how we’ve always done it.” It is the entrepreneur who sketches her business model on a napkin between school pickups. It is the mentor who plants a seed in someone who didn’t yet believe she belonged at the table.

This month, we celebrate the bold, science-driven enterprises putting Greater Lansing on the global map. Their work is extraordinary, and it is also a mirror. Behind every accelerator, every diagnostic, every supply-chain breakthrough, are people who chose to question, to risk, and to lead. Many of those people are women. Many more should be.

The ATHENA principles remind us that authentic leadership and innovation are inseparable. To innovate is to live courageously, to bring your whole self to the work, to learn relentlessly, to advocate fiercely for those who come next, and to celebrate the success of others as if it were your own. These are not soft skills. They are the engine behind every meaningful breakthrough our region has produced.

Greater Lansing is uniquely positioned for the next wave. We have world-class research institutions, a deep manufacturing heritage, and a community that roots loudly for its own. But the real catalyst is our people, the boundary-crossers, the bridge-builders, the women who walk into rooms where they were not expected and reshape them.

Innovation isn’t only what happens in the lab. It’s what happens at the boardroom table when one voice respectfully asks the question no one else has dared. It’s what happens at a coffee meeting when an established leader invests in a rising one. It’s what happens every time we choose courage over comfort.

This summer, let’s keep choosing courage. Let’s celebrate the innovators among us, and become one ourselves



Learn more about ATHENA WIN and our upcoming summer networking events at www.lansingchamber.org/athenawin/ ♦



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Diversity Star Award in partnership with LEAP

By Liz Reno-Hayes

The Diversity Star Award in partnership with Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) honors companies and organizations within the Greater Lansing region that demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing diversity, fostering inclusive workplaces, and championing equity and inclusion throughout the community.

“Partnering with the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce was a natural fit for us,” said Tony Willis, Chief Equity Development Officer at LEAP. “The Chamber’s reach and audience allow us to elevate more organizations doing meaningful work in diversity, equity, and inclusion. We’re grateful for the leadership from Tim Daman and the LRCC Board, and we look forward to many more years of collaboration.”

The award originated from LEAP’s efforts to highlight businesses within its own network that were actively advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2021, the partnership with the Chamber expanded the program’s visibility across the Greater Lansing business community.

“From the beginning, the goal was to showcase companies that are truly doing the work in diversity, equity, and inclusion,” Willis reflected. “There is a lot of conversation around these efforts, but we wanted to define what it actually looks like in practice. These organizations give others a model they can learn from. If you can see it, you can emulate it.”

LEAP emphasizes that inclusive workplaces are directly tied to stronger regional outcomes. Environments grounded in diversity, equity, and inclusion leads to higher engagement, better retention, and improved representation across industries.

“When people feel like they belong, they can show up as their full selves,” Willis added. “That creates



These organizations give others a model they can learn from. If you can see it, you can emulate it.

Tony Willis, Chief Equity Development Officer at LEAP

more empowered employees, stronger leadership pipelines, and ultimately better business performance. It is also a reputational win when your workforce reflects the community you serve.”

Organizations recognized as Diversity Stars include Peckham,



Cinnaire, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Case Credit Union, and Sociallight Society. A common thread among honorees is intentionality, demonstrated through a clear and measurable commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These organizations go beyond goal setting. They have implemented hiring, recruitment, and leadership development practices supported by accountability systems designed to ensure progress, helping attract and support talent from all backgrounds.

Looking ahead, LEAP hopes the award continues to inspire broader adoption of diversity, equity, and inclusion best practices while strengthening collaboration among past recipients.

“We want to keep motivating organizations to think intentionally about how they attract and retain talent,” Willis reflected. “And we hope to engage past awardees as a collective, sharing their strategies so others can learn from what is already working here in Greater Lansing.”

The Diversity Star Award is about more than recognition. It reinforces the Greater Lansing region’s identity as a welcoming, opportunity rich community rooted in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The region continues to be strengthened by its diverse talent, perspectives, and experiences, and highlighting organizations that lead in this work helps build a more inclusive and competitive regional economy for businesses, employees, and the broader community. ♦



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MICHIGAN



Paying for Better Health: A Solution to Rising Health Care Costs

By: Thomas Leyden, Director, Value Partnerships Program



Leyden

Q: WHY ARE HEALTH CARE COSTS RISING SO QUICKLY IN MICHIGAN AND ACROSS THE U.S.?

Health care costs are being driven by several major factors, including an aging population, rising chronic disease rates, expensive hospital care, prescription drug prices and an outdated payment system that rewards the volume of services instead of patient outcomes.

Chronic conditions account for a significant portion of overall health spending, and avoidable complications and hospitalizations continue to increase costs for families and employers. .

Q: WHAT IS “VALUE-BASED CARE,” AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Value-based care is a health care payment model that rewards doctors and hospitals for improving patient health outcomes instead of simply performing more procedures or tests. Traditional “fee-for-service” models pay providers for quantity, which can encourage unnecessary or duplicate care. Value-based care focuses on:

- Preventing disease early
- Coordinating care between providers
- Reducing avoidable hospital visits
- Improving long-term patient outcomes
- Managing chronic conditions more effectively

Q: HOW DOES BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN USE VALUE-BASED CARE TO REDUCE COSTS?

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has spent over two decades building one of the nation’s largest value-based care programs called Value Partnerships, which includes a variety of statewide improvement initiatives such as:

- Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH)
- Collaborative Quality Initiatives (CQIs)

- Physician Group Incentive Program (PGIP)
- Blueprint for Affordability

These programs encourage hospitals and physicians to share data, coordinate treatment and focus on prevention and quality outcomes. The programs are a win for patients, providers, and purchasers of health care.

Q: WHAT MEASURABLE IMPACT HAVE THESE PROGRAMS HAD?

- More than \$6.3 billion in health care costs have been avoided through Blue Cross value-based programs over nearly two decades.
- Collaborative Quality Initiatives alone have helped avoid approximately \$4 billion in health care costs statewide.
- Collaborative Care programs that integrate mental and physical health support generate approximately \$1.70 in savings for every \$1 invested.

Q: WHAT ARE COLLABORATIVE QUALITY INITIATIVES (CQIS)?

CQIs are statewide partnerships between hospitals and physicians that collect clinically rich data and develop best practices to improve care quality and patient safety. More than 100 Michigan hospitals participate in over 20 CQIs focused on:

- Surgical safety
- Chronic disease management
- Reducing complications
- Improving patient outcomes

These collaborations allow providers to work together to identify opportunities for improvement and develop solutions to improve care statewide. ♦

Regional Leaders Complete 2025-26 Leadership Lansing Program

45 outstanding leaders have successfully completed the 2025-26 Leadership Lansing program. Participants were recognized for their accomplishment during a graduation ceremony at the conclusion of the final workshop of the year on May 12, 2026.

The cohort enjoyed some incredible experiences during the final three months of the program. In March, participants were able to see high tech, advanced manufacturing at the highest level during a tour of General Motors Lansing Delta Township Assembly plant, production home of the Chevy Traverse, GMC Acadia and Buick Enclave. The group also enjoyed an inside look at the importance of economic development in the region during a joint presentation from Tim Daman, CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) and Bob Trezise, CEO of Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP).

April's program focused on the nonprofit sector and included a panel discussion with local nonprofit leaders and a tour of the Child and Family Charities nonprofit hub, home of 19 local nonprofits. Nonprofit and healthcare consultant Joseph Garcia was our featured lunch speaker. The day concluded with group presentations about cool assets that make the Lansing region special.

May's program included a panel discussion around the importance of Lansing's downtown to the regional



45 outstanding leaders completed this year's Leadership Lansing program.

economy. The group also enjoyed a guided walking tour of downtown. Lunch speaker was Michelle Massey of TechSmith.

The mission of LRCC's Leadership Lansing program is to help develop and equip the next generation of community leaders. 431 participants have completed the program during the past 11 years.

Information and registration for the 2026-27 program can be found at www.lansingchamber.org/leadership-lansing ♦



Tim Daman of LRCC and Bob Trezise, LEAP spoke to the group about how the Lansing region compares to similar regions around the country and the importance economic development plays in improving regional quality of life.



Participants Mario Gonzales III and Lisa Nielsen are ready to tour GM's Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant.



April's program included a visit to The Hub, located on the former McLaren Lansing Greenlawn campus and home to 19 local nonprofit agencies.

Ross Woodstock Reflects on 11 Years of Leadership Lansing

By Liz Reno-Hayes

After more than a decade helping shape emerging leaders through Leadership Lansing and nearly two decades connected to FOCUS Magazine, Ross Woodstock is stepping into retirement with a deep sense of gratitude and optimism for the future of the Greater Lansing region.

Woodstock helped launch Leadership Lansing 11 years ago alongside the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce after recognizing a growing need for leadership development and talent retention in the region. Inspired by similar programs in other communities, the initiative was designed to connect and equip emerging leaders while giving them a deeper understanding of Greater Lansing.

“We started the program from scratch,” Woodstock recalled. “The first year, we honestly didn’t know what kind of response we would get. We thought maybe 15 people would participate, and we ended up with 33 in that first class.”

Over the years, Leadership Lansing developed a reputation as a high-quality leadership experience, one that Woodstock said evolved intentionally year after year.

“The people who have gone through the program have kept me passionate,” Woodstock said. “There are now 431 leaders who have completed Leadership Lansing, and they are smart, engaged, and fun. Every year, I leave feeling energized about the future of our region.”

According to Woodstock, the relationships formed through the program became one of its most valuable outcomes.

“The number one piece of feedback we hear is about the connections people make,” he noted. “Participants build relationships with leaders they otherwise may never have met, and they carry those relationships forward. They do business together, collaborate, and continue supporting one another long after graduation.”

“One of the most rewarding chapters of my professional career has been helping build Leadership Lansing into something sustainable and meaningful for the region,” Woodstock said. “Seeing the value Chamber members and participants have found in Leadership Lansing over the years has been incredibly fulfilling.”

Woodstock’s connection to storytelling and community impact stretches even further back through his work



Tim Daman presenting Ross with the copy of the first issue of FOCUS that he worked on.

with FOCUS Magazine. “When I started, FOCUS was a 12-page newsletter,” he recalled with a laugh.

Over 18 years with the publication, Woodstock helped share the stories of businesses, leaders, and organizations shaping the region.

Woodstock credits programs like ATHENA Leadership Award and 10 Over the Next Ten Awards, alongside Leadership Lansing, with helping highlight one of Greater Lansing’s greatest strengths: its people.

“Talent should be our calling card,” he said. “We have talented people here, a diverse population, a variety of skillsets, and we’re a very welcoming community. We should continue finding ways to leverage that even more.”

As he looks toward retirement, Woodstock plans to spend more time pursuing lifelong learning, golfing near his Timber Ridge home, and enjoying quality time with his wife. “I love to learn,” he said. “One of my goals is to keep learning something new every day.”

Though he may be stepping away from Leadership Lansing, the program will continue under the leadership of longtime co-facilitator Susan Combs, founder of Susan Combs Coaching & Consulting, and Tanisha Black, a Leadership and Professional Development Training Specialist with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Together, they will continue carrying forward Woodstock’s vision for the program and its impact on the region.

For Woodstock, the legacy he hopes to leave behind is simple: building something sustainable that meets a need, develops leaders, and makes a lasting difference for Greater Lansing’s future. ♦

Celebrating 20 Years of the 10 Over the Next Ten Award

In partnership with Lansing 5:01, the 10 Over the Next Ten Award recognizes Greater Lansing's brightest young professionals, emerging leaders who are already making an impact in their careers, organizations, and communities, while showing exceptional promise for the decade ahead. Honorees are selected based on professional achievement, leadership, and community involvement.

Over the past 19 years, 190 young professionals have been recognized through this program. To celebrate this milestone, we connected with several past awardees to reflect on where their careers and leadership journeys have taken them and to share advice for the next generation of young professionals shaping the future of our region. ♦



Kirbay Preuss - Preuss Pets

Since winning the 10 Over the next Ten, I've joined the board for Ingham County Animal Control's Shelter Fund. This role ties into my love of animal care and assisting shelter animals.

I was also nominated and chosen to be on the board for the World Pet Association which has led to a lot of national travel advocating across the country for the right to have pets and igniting passion for the pet industry. I now also teach yoga at a new and growing wellness studio. Continuing my love for the wellness

industry as well as the pet industry.

What is a piece of advice you would give to young professionals in our region today?

Strengthen your communication skills through the countless volunteer opportunities in our region. Build your resume with compassion driven efforts and recognize that employers are looking for strong communication skills and a willingness to stay connected.



Jeff McWherter - Gravity Works

Since receiving the 10 Over the Next Ten award, Jeff McWherter has continued to make a meaningful impact across Lansing and the state of Michigan. He has remained committed to educating others on software development through speaking, mentorship, and hands-on collaboration, while helping entrepreneurs turn ideas into successful applications. As COO of Gravity Works, Jeff has led the agency through growth and its acquisition by Michigan Farm Bureau, strengthening its role as a trusted digital partner. He has overseen large-scale projects across government, higher education, and nonprofit sectors, while

continuing to mentor team members and support initiatives focused on innovation, accessibility, and inclusive technology.

What is a piece of advice you would give to young professionals in our region today?

Focus on building relationships, not just skills. Show up consistently, communicate clearly, and follow through. Invest time in getting to know people, listen more than you speak, and be someone others can rely on. Opportunities often come through trust. Build a network based on respect, curiosity, and genuine connection.

Nominate a young professional today!

www.lansingchamber.org/10-over-the-next-ten-awards



Kimberly Barber - Globetrotter Travel

Globetrotter Travel has continued to grow since I received a 10 Over the Next Ten award! Recently, I've been excited to reconnect with my alma mater, Central Michigan University, and have been working on a few Alumni Relations group trips with them each year. Some professional highlights have included joining the Lansing local Chapter and National Boards for the National Association of Career Women, as well as serving on the board of the nonprofit T.W.I.G.S. I've also continued to serve on the steering committee for the Lansing Women's Forum and have been recognized as a top 100 agent with my host agency every year. I've been selected to

attend the Global Travel Marketplace event and have also served as an Ambassador for this event.

What is a piece of advice you would give to young professionals in our region today?

Networking on a local level has been one of the most valuable activities I've focused on and I highly recommend getting involved in a few different professional networking organizations. In addition to creating some great friendships, the relationships I've built from networking have lead to many business opportunities and referrals over the years.



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CELEBRATING INNOVATION IN GREATER LANSING

By Liz Reno-Hayes

There is a version of Lansing that most people outside Michigan have never seen. It does not appear in familiar narratives about the state, nor does it fit neatly into the usual stories of automotive legacy or political geography.

Instead, it exists inside a growing cluster of facilities in Greater Lansing where scientists are quietly developing cancer treatments that patients around the world will one day receive.

The work happening here is not incremental. It is not a local version of something being done better elsewhere. It is original and globally significant.

At the center of that story are two companies: Niowave and IONETIX. Together, they reflect something this region should be proud of: Greater Lansing is not waiting for the future. It is building it.

Niowave: Advancing the Future of Precision Cancer Treatment

Inside a growing Lansing campus, teams of engineers, physicists, chemists, and researchers are working on technology that could fundamentally change the future of cancer treatment.

Founded in 2005 as a Michigan State University spinout, Niowave began as a company focused on advanced particle accelerator technology. Today, the company is helping drive one of the fastest-growing areas in nuclear medicine: targeted alpha therapy, an emerging form of cancer treatment designed to destroy cancer cells with greater precision while reducing damage to surrounding cells.

At the center of that work is Actinium-225, a rare medical isotope used in next-generation radiopharmaceutical therapies.

“We make the isotope,” explained Mike Zamiara, Chief Executive Officer of Niowave. “When most people think about radiation therapy, they think about radiation

being directed at a tumor from outside the body. That process can impact healthy tissue as the radiation travels through the body to reach the cancer site. What we’re bringing to the table is the ability to take that radiation-producing isotope and have pharmaceutical companies attach it to a drug that can be injected directly into the body, travel to the cancer site, bind to the cancer cell, and deliver the radiation right where it’s needed.”

The science behind that process is highly specialized. Actinium-225 emits powerful alpha particles with an extremely short travel distance.

“The Actinium-225 decays and emits an alpha particle that travels a distance of about 10 cells, causing damage along its path,” explained Terry Grimm, Chief Science Officer and Founder of Niowave. “The goal is to deliver





“The goal is to deliver it directly to the tumor so the treatment can destroy cancer cells while limiting impact to surrounding healthy tissue.”

Mike Zamara, Chief Executive Officer of Niowave



it directly to the tumor so the treatment can destroy cancer cells while limiting impact to surrounding healthy tissue.”

Grimm's path to founding Niowave began decades earlier through his work in nuclear engineering and superconducting accelerator technology. After graduate research at MIT and work with the U.S. Department of Energy, Grimm joined Michigan State University's National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, helping bring advanced superconducting linear accelerator technology to campus long before the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) became a national research destination.

While working on those large-scale accelerator systems, Grimm and his colleagues began recognizing the broader commercial potential of superconducting technology.

“There was always this long-term vision that these accelerators could eventually be used to make medical isotopes,” Grimm reflected. “At the time, the market wasn't ready yet. But we believed the technology could get there.”

Grimm ultimately made the difficult decision to leave a tenured faculty position at MSU to launch a startup. During its first decade, Niowave focused primarily on building accelerator expertise and partnerships with national laboratories. By 2017, company leadership



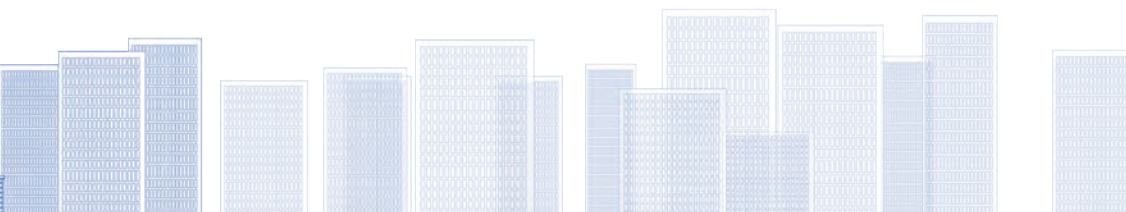
decided to fully concentrate on medical isotope production.

That shift transformed Niowave from an accelerator company into one of the emerging leaders in targeted alpha isotope manufacturing.

Today, more than 50 clinical trials worldwide are exploring therapies using Actinium-225 across multiple cancer types, including prostate, breast, pancreatic, ovarian, and brain cancers. As demand for these therapies accelerates, one of the industry's biggest challenges has become isotope supply.

“There's a tremendous need for these therapies, but there also has to be enough isotope available to support them,” Zamara noted. “We realized very early that scaling production would be critical to the future of this field.”

Niowave is now expanding its Lansing operations into a multi-phase medical isotope campus designed to dramatically increase production capacity. The expansion includes additional manufacturing facilities, pharmaceutical-grade laboratories, and higher-powered linear accelerators capable of producing larger quantities of medical isotopes. The project is expected to grow the company's workforce from roughly 185 employees to well over 250 in the coming years.



The MSU Research Foundation: Building Michigan's Innovation Infrastructure

Behind many of Greater Lansing's startups, research partnerships, and life sciences breakthroughs is the work of the MSU Research Foundation — an organization that has helped shape Michigan's innovation economy for decades.

While the Foundation operates independently from Michigan State University, its mission remains closely tied to advancing university research and strengthening Michigan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Today, it helps move discoveries from labs into startups, products, partnerships, and real-world impact.

Its roots trace back to one of Michigan State University's most influential medical breakthroughs: the discovery of cisplatin and carboplatin in the 1970s. The decision to protect and commercialize those discoveries while reinvesting proceeds into future research helped establish a model that still guides the Foundation today.



David Washburn

"The discovery was protected, licensed, and royalties gained were reinvested to drive future research and innovation," noted David Washburn, Chief Executive Officer of the MSU Research Foundation. "We continue to build upon that model today."

Over time, the Foundation expanded far beyond patent commercialization into startup support, mentorship, and entrepreneurship training, accelerator programming, venture investment, research parks and wet lab development, across Michigan.

One of its key priorities has been closing early-stage funding gaps in the Lansing region.

"Ten years ago, founders in the Greater Lansing region had no access to local venture capital," said Jeff Wesley, Executive Director of Ventures at

the MSU Research Foundation. "We created the Red Cedar Ventures and then the Michigan Rise venture funds to help early-stage companies start here and stay here."

Those efforts have helped support more than 250 early-stage companies across Michigan, spanning healthcare, artificial intelligence, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, mobility, and life sciences.

Infrastructure has also been a major focus.

"When bio and life science startups needed wet lab space, that simply didn't exist in our region," explained Jeff Smith, Director of Research Parks at the MSU Research Foundation. **"We built the VanCamp Incubator, giving founders a place to test, grow, and commercialize their ideas."**

Today, the Foundation supports a broader ecosystem of research parks, accelerators, mentorship programs, networking events, and statewide partnerships designed to help entrepreneurs move from discovery to commercialization.

That collaborative model extends across industries and institutions, including partnerships with Henry Ford Health, Corewell Health, McLaren Health Care, MSU Federal Credit Union, and Michigan Virtual.

The Foundation was the first investor in Neogen in 1982 and helped launch Niowave, reflecting its broader approach of pairing university research with entrepreneurial leadership, early-stage capital, and commercialization support to help companies scale while remaining rooted in Michigan.

"Our vision is that every researcher and entrepreneur at MSU and across the state has access to the resources, relationships, and capital they need to turn their ideas into real-world impact," said Washburn.

The company's work extends far beyond manufacturing alone. Niowave has also become one of only a small number of organizations authorized to recover and transport legacy radium materials from around the world. Working alongside the International Atomic Energy Agency, teams from Niowave travel internationally to safely recover radioactive sources that can be repurposed for isotope production.

"We're taking nuclear waste and turning it into cancer treatments," Zamiara explained.

Those recovery missions have taken teams to locations including Iceland, Spain, Fiji, and Brazil, helping secure materials needed to produce Actinium-225 while also safely removing hazardous radioactive sources from long-term storage sites.

Equally important to Niowave's growth has been its close collaboration with Michigan State University and the broader Lansing innovation ecosystem.

The company continues to partner with MSU researchers on advanced cancer therapies, including ongoing bladder cancer research with Kurt R. Zinn, a veterinarian and translational scientist in MSU's Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine, and Engineering.

"Niowave has been an incredible partner with MSU in the development of targeted radiation therapies for bladder, ovarian, and breast cancers," Zinn shared. "These strategies are based on Niowave's reliable and sustainable supply of radioisotopes that decay with emission of alpha particles."

"Our first clinical trials for bladder cancer will be conducted with the same therapeutic agent in both dogs and humans, with the therapeutic agent placed directly in the bladder for 15 minutes to bind the cancer," he continued. "Our collaborative approach uses repurposed and already approved antibodies for breast cancer and head and neck cancer, but the antibodies also happen to target bladder cancer specifically."

For Niowave leadership, those collaborations reflect the unique strengths of the Lansing region.

"What brought me to Lansing originally was the cyclotron lab at Michigan State," Grimm reflected. "But what kept us here was the combination of manufacturing capability, engineering talent, and the scientific infrastructure that exists in Mid-Michigan. It's incredibly unique."

That regional ecosystem now includes a growing cluster of companies advancing nuclear medicine and

radiopharmaceutical technologies across Greater Lansing.

"We don't look at this as competition," Zamiara emphasized. "The demand for these therapies is far bigger than any one company can handle. We need more organizations succeeding in this space because ultimately the goal is improving cancer treatment for patients everywhere."

Ionetix: Expanding Access to Advanced Nuclear Medicine

A few miles away, another Lansing company is building its own chapter in the region's innovation story. Ionetix, also active in targeted alpha therapies (TAT), is expanding another critical piece of the nuclear medicine ecosystem: advanced imaging and radiopharmaceutical manufacturing.



Credit: Like the Planet Photography, LLC

In June 2025, the Lansing-based company announced a \$25.75 million expansion of its Delta Township facility, adding a second cyclotron and advanced isotope processing laboratory. The project is expected to create more than 50 high-tech jobs over a three-year period.

The expansion follows significant momentum for the company, including a \$30 million private placement offering and a go-public reverse merger transaction. Historically, Ionetix has specialized in manufacturing superconducting 12 MeV cyclotrons and producing N-13 ammonia, a cardiac PET imaging agent used to evaluate heart tissue and detect coronary artery disease.

The company is continuing to advance its TAT initiatives and isotope production capabilities. The higher-energy cyclotrons being installed through the expansion will allow Ionetix to manufacture and distribute additional radioactive isotopes, supporting both diagnostic imaging and emerging therapeutic applications.

One major milestone came with the recent approval of Ionetix's abbreviated new drug application for Gallium

Ga 68 Gozetotide Injection, also known as PSMA-11, a prostate cancer imaging agent.

“The goal is to reach underserved areas through Ionetix’s multi-site network of PET facilities,” noted Jill Wilson, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance at Ionetix. “We are excited to do our part to provide PSMA-PET.”

PSMA imaging has become one of the most important recent advances in prostate cancer detection because it allows physicians to identify prostate cancer cells with far greater precision than many traditional imaging methods. By targeting prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA), the scans can detect whether cancer has spread or returned, often earlier and more accurately than conventional imaging.

At the same time, Ionetix is helping advance targeted alpha therapy, one of the most promising frontiers in cancer care.

“Both alpha and beta radiopharmaceuticals can deliver radiation to and kill cancer cells selectively,” Wilson explained. “Targeted alpha radiation therapy is based on drugs labeled with isotopes undergoing radioactive decay by emitting alpha particles. An important characteristic of alpha particles is their high linear energy transfer and very short tissue penetration (0.05 to 0.1 mm), thus depositing those lethal nuclear micro-explosions within a few cell diameters. Very small cancerous cell clusters, micrometastases or even isolated malignant cells can be successfully targeted and destroyed — currently unachievable by beta therapy or other treatments.”

According to Alexander Yordanov, Director of CMC Product Development at Ionetix, the company is also helping address one of the industry’s biggest challenges: access to alpha-emitting isotopes.



“Ionetix is pioneering the commercial distribution of cyclotron-produced alpha emitters such as Astatine-211 and Actinium-225,” Yordanov shared.

“Pre-clinical and clinical studies involving novel therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals, currently limited by the scarcity of alpha-emitting isotopes, will be enabled to advance, and we are honored to play a leading role

in accelerating the development of innovative FDA-approved alpha therapies aimed at transforming the future of cancer treatment and mitigation.”

Like Niowave, Ionetix credits much of its success to the collaborative environment developing across Greater Lansing.

“The Lansing region has played a significant role in supporting Ionetix’s growth, innovation, and operational expansion,” shared Dominica Palacio, Vice President of Administration at Ionetix. “Partnerships with organizations including the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Capital Area Michigan Works!, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the State of Michigan have helped support workforce development, facility expansion, and long-term growth.”

The company also sees major opportunities ahead for Michigan’s role in life sciences and nuclear medicine innovation.

“We believe the region’s commitment to supporting emerging technologies, entrepreneurship, and workforce expansion positions Lansing as an attractive destination for companies seeking to grow within the life sciences sector,” Palacio noted.

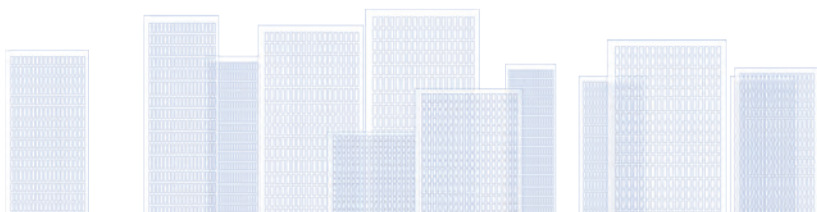
A Region Shaping What Comes Next

For generations, our region has been known for manufacturing, education, and public service. Today, it is increasingly becoming known for innovation.

As demand for precision medicine, advanced imaging, and targeted therapies continues to rise, companies like Niowave and Ionetix are helping position Greater Lansing at the forefront of a rapidly evolving global industry, one where innovation happening locally may help shape the future of cancer treatment worldwide.

The patients who will benefit from these therapies may never know where the isotopes were produced or which Lansing campus helped advance the science behind their care.

But this version of Lansing, the one building the future, is very much worth recognizing. ♦



Meet the Candidates: Conversations Shaping the Lansing Region

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce officially kicked off its 2026 Meet the Candidates Series in May, continuing the Chamber's commitment to keeping the regional business community informed, engaged, and connected throughout the election cycle. The series is made possible by McKinney & Associates.

The LRCC Meet the Candidates Series is designed to provide business leaders and community stakeholders with direct, substantive access to candidates seeking public office. These conversations create a respectful, nonpartisan setting for candidates to discuss their priorities and engage in dialogue on issues important to the business community, including economic growth, workforce development, infrastructure, housing, and regional competitiveness.



**Ingham County
Commissioner
Mark Polsdofer**



**State Representative
Angela Witwer**



**Eaton County Prosecutor
Doug Lloyd**

The May lineup featured several candidates seeking key state and local offices, including State Representative Angela Witwer, who is running for re-election in the 76th House District representing Delta Township and portions of Eaton County. Attendees also heard from Mark Polsdofer, current Ingham County Commissioner and candidate for the 28th Michigan State Senate District, as well as Doug Lloyd, who is running for Michigan Attorney General.

The Chamber looks forward to continuing the series throughout 2026 and providing opportunities for LRCC members ♦

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TRIO TERRA

Helping the Next Generation Enter the Workforce

As employers across the Lansing region continue to navigate workforce shortages and talent pipeline challenges, one area that deserves increased attention is helping young people gain meaningful work experience early.

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce encourages businesses to explore opportunities to engage young workers through summer employment, internships, job shadowing, mentorship opportunities, and entry level positions that help build foundational workplace skills and long-term career pathways.

Early work experience provides young people with valuable lessons in communication, teamwork, responsibility, professionalism, and leadership while also helping employers connect with the next generation of talent.

The State of Michigan recently launched additional resources focused on youth employment, including information on workplace requirements, safety guidelines, and employer resources. We encourage employers,

educators, workforce organizations, and community leaders to continue working together to create more opportunities for young people to enter and succeed in the workforce.

As a region, Lansing has tremendous assets from our schools and universities to our small businesses, healthcare systems, manufacturers, hospitality industry, and public sector partners. Strengthening the connection between education and employment will continue to be critical to our long-term economic competitiveness and talent retention efforts.

View Michigan's Youth Employment Initiative Resources Here: www.michigan.gov/leo/initiatives/youth-employment.com

If your business currently offers youth employment opportunities, internships, or workforce development programs, we encourage you to share those efforts with our team as we continue highlighting workforce success stories across the Lansing region. ♦



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PreK for All is Michigan's free, high-quality preschool program offering the early education your child deserves — in settings you trust. Preschool classrooms are open in local school districts and private childcare centers across Eaton County.

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Register now for the 2026-27 school year at
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The materials are funded through a grant provided by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP)

Powering Progress for 100 Years

For 100 years, the electricians of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 665 and their contractor partners with the National Electrical Contractors Association have helped build and power Mid-Michigan. From homes and hospitals to schools, factories, and major infrastructure projects, their work touches nearly every part of daily life across the Lansing region.

Since its founding in 1926, Local 665 has helped shape both the local workforce and the communities it serves. That impact can be seen across Mid-Michigan, from major commercial and industrial projects to public infrastructure and emerging clean energy technologies. Together, Local 665 electricians and NECA contractors have built a reputation for quality, safety, and professionalism that has endured across generations.

At the heart of that success is a long-standing partnership between skilled union electricians and responsible electrical contractors committed to investing in workforce development.

For decades, Local 665 and NECA contractors have prepared workers for long-term careers in the electrical industry. Apprentices earn while they learn, receiving hands-on training alongside classroom instruction that equips them with the skills needed for an increasingly complex and technology-driven field.

That model has helped create a highly skilled workforce capable of adapting to enormous changes in the industry over the last century. Electrical work today extends far beyond traditional wiring. Local 665 electricians work on advanced manufacturing facilities, data and communications systems, renewable energy projects, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, battery plants, and sophisticated building automation systems that are shaping the future economy.



for thousands of workers and families throughout the region. Generations of electricians have built stable

The partnership between Local 665 and NECA contractors has also helped create opportunities



ELECTRICAL WORKERS - TAWA ST. STATION - LANSING, MI - 1939

1939 Electrical workers Lansing, MI



2024 Habitat for Humanity project

careers through the organization, supported by strong wages, healthcare coverage, and employer-paid retirement benefits that

help strengthen the broader local economy. At the same time, contractors have been able to rely on a highly trained workforce capable of delivering complex projects safely, efficiently, and at the highest level of quality.

Just as importantly, Local 665 and its NECA partners have maintained a deep connection to the communities where they live and work. Together, they regularly support local charities, community organizations, schools, and workforce initiatives throughout the Lansing area. That spirit of service has helped make the organization not only a leader in the construction industry, but also a longstanding community partner.

As Michigan continues to experience growth in manufacturing, energy infrastructure, and technology investment, the need for a highly trained electrical workforce is only increasing. Local 665 and its NECA contractors are helping meet that demand by continuing to recruit and train the next generation of electricians while maintaining the high standards that have defined the organization for the past century. ♦

Highlights from the LRCC Policy Forum

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) welcomed business and community leaders Tuesday evening for a sold-out Policy Forum featuring Mike Duggan, LRCC-endorsed Independent candidate for Governor of Michigan.

The discussion focused on Michigan's economic future, including workforce development, infrastructure, economic competitiveness, and statewide priorities.

Moderated by LRCC President & CEO Tim Daman, the event highlighted the importance of collaboration, economic growth, and creating opportunities for communities across Michigan.

LRCC endorsed Mike Duggan for his proven leadership, bipartisan approach, and commitment to strengthening Michigan's business climate and communities.

Robert Showers, who has held multiple executive management positions in the insurance industry and serves as a Clinton County commissioner, received the inaugural Growth Leadership Award for his service and community impact.

On Thursday, May 21, Mike Duggan announced that he was withdrawing from the 2026 Michigan gubernatorial race. Duggan's decision comes after months of campaigning and discussions centered on Michigan's future, economic growth, and competitiveness. His departure marks a significant development in the race for governor and will undoubtedly reshape the landscape of the 2026 election cycle moving forward. ♦



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2026 LRCC Growth Leadership Award



Robert Showers, a longtime leader in both the insurance industry and public service, was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Growth Leadership Award during the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Policy Forum. The award, made possible by **Consumers Energy**, honors

individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and a commitment to advancing growth, collaboration, and regional opportunity across Lansing.

Showers has held multiple executive management positions throughout his career in the insurance industry while also serving the residents of Clinton County as a county commissioner. He was recognized for his leadership, dedication to regional collaboration, and commitment to initiatives that strengthen the economic future of the Lansing region.

As part of the recognition, Chamber leadership highlighted Showers' role in fostering partnerships that support infrastructure, economic development, and long-term regional planning efforts, including his involvement with regional collaboration initiatives such as the Capital Council of Governments (CAPCOG).

“
For the greater good of the entire community, **you must be willing to set aside your own interests and fully invest in the success of others.**

Robert Showers

“Over the years, the most important truth I've learned about successful regional collaboration is that there are times when, for the greater good of the entire community, you must be willing to set aside your own interests and fully invest in the success of others,” Showers noted. “True leadership requires humility,

partnership, and a shared commitment to moving the region forward together. The Apostle Paul said it well: 'Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.' That mindset has guided both my public service and my work in regional collaboration.” ♦

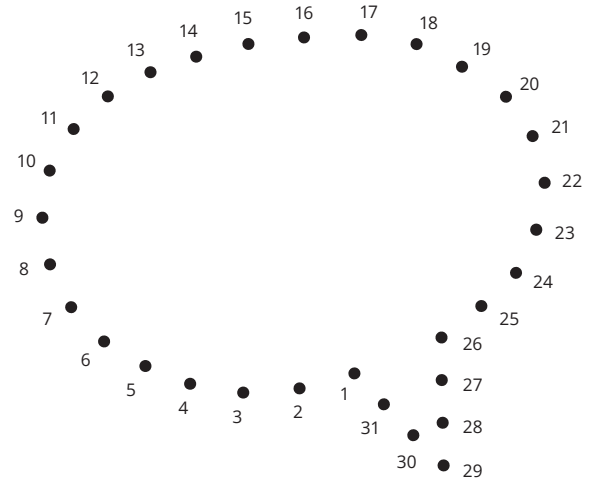


Robert Showers accepts his award at the 2026 Policy Forum



City of Lansing officials, CAPCOG, and Regional business leaders celebrate the Michigan Avenue Corridor ribbon cutting

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Presidents & Chairs of the Lansing Chamber and its Predecessors

Presidents / Chair of Board of Lansing Chamber of Commerce - The title changed from President to Chairman of the Board in 1988.



William R. Carlyon - 1965

Carlyon was employed as manager by Consumers Power Company in Lansing as well as serving on the Meridian Town-ship Board and the Ingham County Health and Welfare Fund. He was president of Lansing Rotary 1949-1950. Carlyon died April 7, 1985.



Benton "Ben" E. Warner Jr. - 1966

Warner was the general manager of the local George Worthington Company operation. The company was a wholesale hardware and industrial distribution firm headquartered in Cleveland and traced its roots back to 1829 when Worthington founded the company.

Worthington was an extremely prominent and successful businessman who also was among the organizers of the 1st National Bank of Cleveland, Hahnemann Life Insurance Company and Cleveland Iron Mining Company.



John G. Goodell - 1967

Goodell was born in May, 1918. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan where he later assisted in creating an endowed chair in Insurance Studies in the College of Business. He served as a pilot over the China/Burma/India Hump during

World War II. Goodell was president of the Lansing Insurance Agency, active in the Lansing Kiwanis Club and served on the Capitol City Airport Board. Goodell died on December 18, 2008.



George Voorhis - 1968

Voorhis was the local manager of the Lansing office of Michigan Bell Telephone Company and later served as government relations manager for Michigan Bell statewide.



Louis E. Legg Jr. - 1969

Legg was born in 1928 and graduated from MSU in 1950. He was president and chairman of Lansing Lumber Company as well as 12 other construction or real estate related companies across Michigan and in Indiana. He served as chairman of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the State Building Commission of Michigan. Legg was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1964, elected to the Republican State Central

Committee in 1965 and also served as chairman of the Ingham County Republican Committee. Legg's community service includes Lansing Rotary Club (president 1978-79), E.W. Sparrow Hospital (director 1974-89) Manufacturers Bank of Lansing (director 1967-1991), Lansing YMCA (president 1968), Parkwood YMCA (director 1960-67) and many other officer and board positions.

Chamber in Action



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with **Choose Lansing**, congratulated Courtyard by **Marriott Lansing**, located at 2710 Lake Lansing Road, on their grand re-opening!



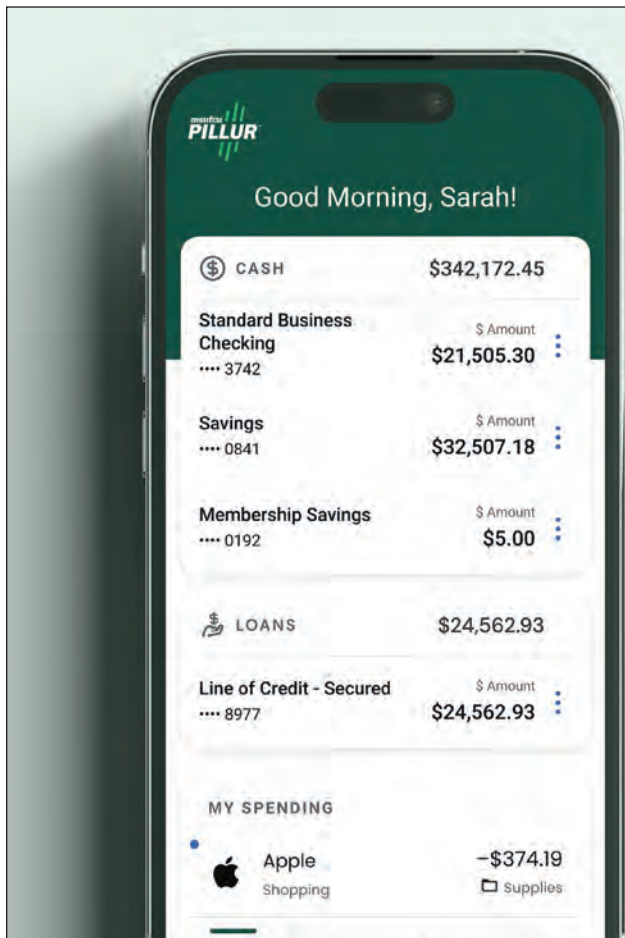
The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with our Ambassadors, recently celebrated the new East Lansing location of **Forster Woods Adult Day Center** and the launch of their podcast, *Under The Tree*.



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce with our Ambassadors, Choose Lansing and local officials from Delta Township, celebrated the 2-year anniversary of **KPOT Korean BBQ & Hot Pot** in Lansing with a ribbon cutting.



The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, joined by our Ambassadors are proud to celebrate the grand opening of the new **Chick-fil-A South Cedar** in Lansing!



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A Legacy of Service: Dick Peffley Marks 50 Years at BWL

The Lansing Board of Water & Light has been a cornerstone in the Lansing community for over 140 years, and one man has been an instrumental part in the growth and development of our Hometown utility.

In 1976, Dick Peffley joined the BWL as a janitor in what was then a newly built Erickson Power Station. Peffley worked his way up to the top serving as a plant manager and executive director and even a brief time as the general manager in 2006 before accepting the role permanently in 2015. Fast forward five decades later, and in June of this year he celebrates his 50th year at Michigan's largest publicly owned utility.

The utility industry has changed quite a bit in his 50 years, but the importance of safe, reliable and affordable energy has remained the same. Under his leadership, Peffley has pushed for cleaner energy options while keeping rates competitive across the state. It's what's helped the BWL grow from a \$500 million organization to an over \$2 billion company, making BWL among the top public utilities in the country.

Peffley has celebrated some significant accomplishments in his time at the BWL, including overseeing the build of



BWL's \$20 million chilled water plant – the largest in the country – and the BWL's REO Town Headquarters and Cogeneration Plant. He also helped make BWL the second utility in the country to remove every active lead water line in 2016 and guided contract negotiations between General Motors and Ultium for the new battery cell plant in Delta Township, among many other achievements. This is only a fraction of the impact Peffley has made on the BWL, the utility industry and the Greater Lansing community throughout his career.

Congratulations, Dick, on 50 years of distinguished service to the Greater Lansing region! ♦

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Ingham County
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Members on the Move

NEW HIRES



Mazzoni

McLaren Greater Lansing has named **Dean Mazzoni** as its new President and Chief Executive Officer effective March 2026, following a comprehensive national search.

Mazzoni brings more than 20 years of senior health care leadership experience, most recently serving as President and CEO of the Michigan City Division of Franciscan Alliance, a 12-hospital Midwest system. During his tenure there, he led the design and opening of a new hospital, expanded services, and oversaw executive leadership across three hospitals. A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Mazzoni holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and the University of Notre Dame.



Meindertsma

Northwestern Mutual in East Lansing welcomes **Marley Meindertsma** as a financial representative. A 2023 Michigan State University graduate, Meindertsma

is committed to helping individuals, families, and business owners build confidence in their financial futures through planning, risk management, and partnerships built on integrity.



Sparks

Triterra welcomes **Evan Sparks** as a Field Technician in its Industrial Hygiene group. Sparks brings hands-on experience and a customer-

focused mindset to the role, assisting with on-site air monitoring during asbestos abatement projects to ensure regulatory compliance. He is currently pursuing an Associate's degree in Business Management at Davenport University.



Maki



Maxey

Custom Built Design & Remodeling welcomes two new team members. **Karter Maki** joins as Marketing Lead, bringing expertise in digital marketing and strategic planning to strengthen the company's online presence and support growth across the Michigan market. **Aaron Maxey** joins as Videographer, leveraging years of photography and videography experience to plan, shoot, and edit content that showcases the company's remodeling projects, craftsmanship, and people-first culture.



Garcia

The **Greater Lansing Food Bank** welcomes **Joe Garcia** as Chief Impact Officer. Garcia leads the organization's shift toward a network-based approach to food access, bridging food insecurity with healthcare, education, and economic stability. With a background spanning behavioral health, medical, and dental operations serving underserved populations, he brings a systems-level perspective to nonprofit leadership — translating complex community needs into operational models that deliver

measurable, lasting impact across the region.

APPOINTMENTS



Babiak



Ebert



Hanenburg



Kurtz

Maner Costerisan announced 15 manager-level promotions, elevating four team members to senior manager. **Ryan Babiak**, CPA, was promoted to senior manager in the audit department, bringing more than 10 years of accounting experience and a degree from Aquinas College. **Scott Ebert**, CPA, was also promoted to senior manager in the audit department, bringing more than eight years of experience with degrees from Michigan State University. **Seth Hanenburg**, CPA, was promoted in the accounting department, bringing 11 years of experience and degrees from Davenport University. **Lauren Kurtz**, CPA, was promoted in the tax department, bringing 10 years of tax experience and a degree from Aquinas College. Eleven additional team members were promoted to manager across several departments. Audit: **Ryan Freemire**, CPA; **Kevin Jang**, CPA; **Tom Jury**, CPA; **Gabe Seng**, CPA, CGFM; **Matt Spinner**, CPA Tax: **Alexis Balkema**, CPA; **Tyler Harris**; **Ashley Ristic**, CPA Accounting & Outsourced Solutions: **Amy Broers**, CPA; **Hannah Knott**, CPA; **Tori Waller**.



Jones

LAFCU has promoted **Jamie Jones** to branch manager of its contact center, recognizing her leadership and commitment to exceptional member service. In her role,

Jones oversees daily operations, coaches frontline staff, and ensures consistent service quality across all member interactions. She joined LAFCU in 2018 as a senior member service representative and advanced to assistant branch manager in 2023 before stepping into her current role.

AWARDS



Ruis

Tom Ruis, Senior Vice President at PNC has been recognized a 2026 **PNC Market All-Star**. This recognition reflects strong results across the PNC network in 2025 and

honors employees for performance and impact.



LAFCU has earned the 2026 Inclusive Workplace designation from Best Companies Group, an honor based entirely on

employee feedback recognizing organizations where team members feel valued, respected and empowered. The recognition adds to the Michigan-based credit union's growing list of workplace honors, which include three Best Credit Union to Work For designations and a Best Place to Work for Women distinction. Together, these accolades reflect LAFCU's sustained commitment to building a culture where employees feel inspired, engaged and supported.



Eaton **Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)** is proud to announce

that CFO **Tina Monroe** has been named the 2026 Michigan School Business Official of the Year by the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO). The honor, presented at the 87th MSBO Annual Conference & Exhibit Show, recognizes school business professionals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, integrity and service to public education. Monroe has served Eaton RESA for more than ten years, earning a reputation for professionalism and precision in overseeing a broad portfolio of fiscal responsibilities, including budget development, financial audits, purchasing oversight and multi-location operations.



Christina Richards, manager of clinical operations for cardiology, has been named the latest

recipient of **McLaren Greater Lansing's** Extraordinary Employee of the Season Award, which recognizes hospital system employees for exceptional contributions to their teams and patients. Richards was nominated by a coworker who praised her hands-on leadership style and dedication, noting that she consistently steps in to support team members to ensure patients experience no delays in clinic visits or Cath Lab procedures. The recognition reflects her unwavering commitment to both her colleagues and the patients they serve.

COMPANY NEWS



Capital Imaging, a Mid-Michigan leader in large-format printing and display graphics, is celebrating over 30 years of serving

businesses, institutions, and organizations throughout the region. The company continues to expand its capabilities in custom displays, wall coverings, architectural signage, and graphic installations. Known for fast, reliable, on-time service, Capital Imaging supports projects from concept through installation, helping clients execute high-impact visual solutions in corporate, educational, and public environments. Recent work includes installations for corporate interiors, museum exhibits, and public infrastructure, reinforcing the company's commitment to quality, precision, and dependable execution.



Risk Strategies officially joined the **Brown & Brown** family, with the Risk Strategies brand transitioning to Brown & Brown on May 1, 2026. The combination brought together the strengths of both organizations to deliver scalable, forward-looking insurance strategies tailored to clients at every stage of their growth journey. The move expanded both organizations' capabilities and reinforced the commitment to providing innovative solutions across the market.



Hospice of Lansing & Stoneleigh Residence broke ground at Stoneleigh Residence on

April 8, marking a transformative expansion to meet the growing need for compassionate, residential end-of-life care in mid-Michigan. The project advances the organization's \$4 million Building on Our Promise campaign to expand Stoneleigh — the region's only independent, nonprofit licensed hospice residence — bringing the total to 12 hospice suites along with additional family and administrative space. The expansion will increase access for families seeking specialized, around-the-clock care in a home-like setting. Learn more at hospiceoflansing.org.



Patten

Martin Commercial Properties is proud to celebrate **Carson Patten**, CCIM Vice President - Retail Advisor, for his recent achievement of earning the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation. The CCIM designation is one of the most respected and challenging credentials in the commercial real estate industry, signifying advanced expertise in financial analysis, market evaluation, and investment strategy. Carson's accomplishment represents a significant milestone. Congratulations, Carson! ♦

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