



Economic Development Basic Course  
September 8 – 10, 2026  
The View at Jackson Field  
Lansing, MI

Corporate Sponsors



**Tuesday, September 8**

**7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Registration**

**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Small Business & Entrepreneurship Development**  
*Vicky Rowinski, CEcD, Director, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Macomb County*

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Break**

**10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Strategic Planning**  
*Keith A. Gillenwater, CEcD, MEDP, MPA, President and CEO, Accelerate Jackson County, Inc.*

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch**

**1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Developing a Healthy Relationship with Your Legislators**  
*Jeff Mayes, Executive Director, Sales and Marketing, Consumers Energy*

**2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break**

**2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Real Estate Development and Reuse**  
*Samantha Mariuz, EDFP, Economic Development Manager, Fleis & Vandenbrink*

**Wednesday, September 9**

**7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Registration**

**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Community/Neighborhood Development**  
*Khalfani Stephens, MBA, CEcD, EDFP, Adjunct Professor, University of Michigan Flint*

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.      Break**

**10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.      Economic Development Ethics**

***Samantha Fountain, CEcD, Community and Economic Development Director, Building, Planning, & Zoning Department, City of Lapeer***

**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.      Lunch**

**1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Marketing & Attraction**

***Maureen Donohue Krauss, CEO, Donohue Krauss***

**3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.      Break**

**3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.      Managing an Economic Development Organization**

***Justin Horvath, CEcD, President and CEO, Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership***  
***Brent Jones, Vice President, Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership***

**Thursday, September 10**

**7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.      Registration**

**7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.      Workforce Development**

***Zachary Morris, EDFP, Economic & Community Development Consultant, AVP Business Development, Sturgis Bank***

**9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.      Break**

**9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.      Economic Development Finance**

***Jason Kester, EDFP, Regional Director, Agracel***

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      Lunch**

**12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.      Business Retention & Expansion**

***Kati Mora, President and CEO, Middle Michigan Development Corporation***