



Economic Development In Your Place

Fall Conference

October 9, 2026

The Delamar, Traverse City, MI

Corporate Sponsors



Event Sponsors



Attendee Roster

Sarah Abbas

Founder
Sarah Abbas, LLC
PH: (313) 800-3935
sarah.b.abbas@gmail.com

Rob Bacigalupi

Principal
Mission North, LLC
rob@missionnorthmi.com

Allen Bacon

Principal External Engagement
Manager
Consumers Energy
PH: (616) 413-1097
allen.bacon@cmsenergy.com

Jill Bahm

Principal Planner
Giffels Webster
PH: (248) 852-3100
jbahm@giffelswebster.com

Renee Baker

Director of Project Management
INFORM Studio
rbaker@in-formstudio.com

Gavin Beckford

Economic Development and
DDA Manager
Canton Township
PH: (734) 394-5197
gavin.beckford@cantonmi.gov

Erin Bemis

Senior Funding Strategist
RDG, a Convergent Company
PH: (231) 675-6498
Ebemis
@convergentnonprofit.com

Andrew Bitely

Land Development Vice
President
Sable Homes
PH: (616) 866-3913
andrew.bitely@sablehomes.com

Tom Bommarito

Economic Development Director
City of Warren
PH: (586) 419-0330
tbommarito@cityofwarren.org

Charles Boulard

Community Development
Director
City of Novi
PH: (248) 347-0423
cboulard@cityofnovi.org

Jerrid Burdue

Neighborhood Business &
Special Projects Coordinator
Southwest Michigan Planning
Commission
PH: (269) 925-1137
burduej@swmpc.org

Julie Burrell

Area Manager
ITC
PH: (269) 792-7236
jburrell@itctransco.com

Julia Bush

Industry Analyst
Center for Automotive Research
PH: (734) 662-1287
jbush@cargroup.org

Rob Carson

Regional Director of Community
Development
Networks Northwest
PH: (231) 929-5000
rob.carson
@networksnorthwest.org

Valerie Christofferson

Director, Growth Strategy and
Execution
Consumers Energy
PH: (616) 648-2777
valerie.christofferson
@cmsenergy.com

Mathew Cooke

Community Planner
Networks Northwest
PH: (231) 929-5000
mathew.cooke
@networksnorthwest.org

Jim Cooley

University of North Dakota
james.cooley@und.edu

Kyle Dodd

Manager, Site Selection and
Incentives
Rudolph Libbe Companies
PH: (419) 936-8534
Kyle.Dodd@RLGbuilds.com

Julie Durham

Director, Community and
Economic Development
Public Sector Consultants, Inc.
PH: (517) 484-4954
Jdurham
@publicsectorconsultants.com

Michele Eaton

Principal External Engagement
Manager
Consumers Energy
PH: (810) 760-3497
michele.eaton@cmsenergy.com

Art Eckert

Vice President - Business
Development & Client Solutions
Sachse Construction
PH: (248) 229-1104
Aeckert@sachse.net

Kelly Ewalt

Development Director
City of St. Joseph
PH: (269) 983-5541
kewalt@sjcity.com

Brian Farkas

Director of Workforce Housing
Allen Edwin Homes
PH: (248) 412-3407
Workforcehousing
@allenedwin.com

Chris Farkas

Business Development Manager
Rudolph Libbe Companies
PH: (567) 277-4828
chris.farkas@rlgbuilds.com

Stacey Feeley

20Fathoms
s.feeley@20fathoms.org

Rochelle Freeman

Business and Economic
Development Director
City of Southfield
PH: (248) 796-4161
rfreeman@cityofsouthfield.com

Trevor Friedeberg

President and CEO
Greater Muskegon Economic
Development
PH: (989) 450-9242
Tfriedeberg
@developmuskegon.org

Jenn Gelletly

Project Manager
AKT Peerless Environmental
Services
PH: (248) 200-6666
gelletlyj@aktpeerless.com

Gaynell Gentelia

Associate Director
Village of Kalkaska
PH: (231) 384-6629
Mainstreet
@kalkaskavillage.com

Daniel Gladki

Senior and Affordable Housing
Director
The Wirt-Rivette Group
PH: (989) 293-7049
danielg@wrgmi.com

Chris Hackbarth

Regional Manager, Northern
Michigan
DTE Energy
PH:
Christopher.Hackbarth
@dteenergy.com

Jeff Hagan

Chief Executive Officer
Eastern Upper Peninsula
Regional Planning and
Development Commission
PH: (906) 635-1581
jshagan@eup-planning.org

Valarie Handy

Deputy City Manager
City of Traverse City
PH: (231) 392-4705
vhandy@traversecitymi.gov

Kyle Harris

City Manager
City of Brown City
PH: (810) 705-5188
kharris@cityofbrowncity.net

Brad Heffner

Strategic External Relations
Advisor and Associate General
Counsel
MEDC
PH: (517) 241-6710
heffnerb@michigan.org

Steve Hensley

Community & Economic
Development Director
Saginaw Future, Inc.
PH: (989) 757-2107
shensley@saginawfuture.com

Kelli Herman

Associate | Strategy
Development Leader
HED
PH: (734) 262-5946
kherman@hed.co

Zeb Jones

Commercial Real Estate Lender
Michigan Community Capital
PH: (517) 624-1813
zebj@miccap.org

Julianne Kaplani

Director of Business
Development
Source Advisors
PH: (734) 740-7184
Julianne.Kaplani
@sourceadvisors.com

Greg King

Vice President, Economic
Development
Cornerstone Alliance
PH: (269) 757-0204
gking@cstonealliance.org

Bill Lee

Vice President of Business
Development
Veneklasen Construction
PH: (616) 957-3731
Blee
@veneklasenconstruction.com

Jessica Lovay

Community Development and
Grants
Northern Lakes Economic
Alliance
PH: (231) 582-6482
jess@northernlakes.net

Stephanie Marchbanks

Community Planner
Networks Northwest
PH: (231) 929-5000
stephanie.marchbanks
@networksnorthwest.org

Samantha Mariuz

Economic Development
Manager
Fleis & VandenBrink
PH: (248) 224-0305
smariuz@fveng.com

Tanya Markos-Vanno

PMBC Development and
Operations Manager
MEDC
PH: (313) 720-1163
markos-vannot@michigan.org

Lindsey McGuirk

Director, External Engagement
Consumers Energy
PH: (616) 558-6849
lindsey.mcguirk
@cmsenergy.com

Janie McNabb

Chief Executive Officer
Networks Northwest
PH: (231) 357-9330
janie.mcnabb
@networksnorthwest.org

Lee Michaels

Director of Programming and
Client Services
Lionbear Ventures, LLC
PH: (810) 447-1571
lee@lionbearventures.com

Kati Mora

President and CEO
Middle Michigan Development
Corporation
PH: (989) 772-2858
kati.mora@mmdc.org

Sarah Mulally

Deputy Director of Business and
Economic Development
City of Southfield
PH: (248) 796-4162
smulally@cityofsouthfield.com

Katie Multhauf

Economic Development
Manager
Market One
PH: (269) 351-2007
multhaufk@marketone.org

Claire Newman

Business and Communications
Associate
Lean and Green Michigan
PH: (989) 615-5032
claire@leanandgreenmi.com

Chris Olson

President
Chippewa County Economic
Development Corp.
PH: (906) 495-5631
Chrisolson
@chippewacountyedc.com

Shannon Owen

Director, Northern Michigan
Region
Grand Valley State University
PH: (231) 995-1785
owensha@gvsu.edu

Krystal Payne

Partner
Campio
PH: (248) 602-1245
krystal@campiopartners.com

Heidi Pfannes

Business Development Director
Miller Davis
PH: (269) 207-5647
hpfannes@miller-davis.com

Abigail Pluger

Community Development
Specialist
City of Cadillac
PH: (231) 779-7329
apluger@cadillac-mi.net

Nick Posavetz

Vice President
Plante Moran Realpoint
PH: (313) 300-0627
nick.posavetz
@plantemoran.com

Nicole Radke

Interim Director
Sault Ste. Marie Economic
Development Corp.
PH: (906) 635-9131
nradke@saultcity.com

Lisa Radtke

Executive Director
Builders Exchange of NW
Michigan
PH: (231) 946-5531
lisa@bxtvc.com

Lauren Rickley

Senior Advisor, Community
Engagement
Enbridge Energy
lauren.rickley@enbridge.com

Timothy Rygwelski

Executive Director
Otsego County Economic
Alliance
PH: (989) 971-9794
tim@gaylord-otsego.com

Glen Santelices

Business Development -
Engineering Manager
IMEG
PH: (248) 820-7252
glen.c.santelices
@imegcorp.com

Jeffrey Schroder

Partner
Plunkett Cooney PC
PH: (248) 594-2796
jschroder@plunkettcooney.com

Caleb Seeley

Director of Business
Development
Cseeley@lakewoodinc.com

Kris Spaulding

Strategic Partnerships Director
Northern Initiatives
PH: (616) 403-9234
Kspaulding
@northerninitiatives.org

Crystal Stiles

Senior Executive Director,
Growth
Consumers Energy
PH: (517) 581-1465
crystal.w.stiles@cmsenergy.com

Sheila Suppes

Business Development Manager
Clark Construction Company
PH: (248) 318-9051
ssupes@clarkcc.com

Regina Swick

Intern
City of Novi
PH: (248) 249-1866
rswick@cityofnovi.org

Zachary Szymanski

Operations Director/Local
Government Analyst
Double Haul Solutions
PH: (586) 610-1155
zack@doublehaulsolutions.com

Kathy Thomas

Executive Assistant
Chippewa County Economic
Development Corp.
PH: (906) 495-5631
Kathythomas
@chippewacountyedc.com

Tammy Thomson

Housing Education & Advisory
Team Coordinator
Lake Huron Regional
Development Corporation /
Target Alpena Development
Corporation
PH: (989) 590-6141
tthomson@lakehuroncdc.org

Jim Tischler

Development Director
Michigan Land Bank Authority
PH: (517) 242-4376
tischlerj2@michigan.gov

Rodney Tolbert

Economic Development
Specialist
City of Pontiac
PH: (248) 758-3105
rtolbert@pontiac.mi.us

Jordan Twardy

Economic Development Director
City of Dearborn
PH: (313) 943-3179
jttwardy@dearborn.gov

Corey Utley

Principal Growth Project
Manager
Consumers Energy
PH: (517) 331-6442
Corey.Utley@cmsenergy.com

Tim Voss

Customer and Business
Solutions
ITC
PH: (517) 243-5842
tvoss@itctransco.com

Andy Wakeland

Partner, Civil Engineer
Giffels Webster
PH: (248) 821-7094
awakeland@giffelswebster.com

Dusty Welsh

Business Service Professional,
Director of Economic
Development for Gladwin
County
Michigan Works! Region 7B
PH: (248) 632-7572
dwelsh@michworks4u.org

Jonathan Wilson

Regional Manager
DTE Energy
PH: (616) 581-8290
jonathan.wilson@dteenergy.com

Trevor Woollatt

Sr. Project Manager
Fleis & VandenBrink
PH: (616) 588-1920
twoollatt@fveng.com