



**LAKE COUNTY PUTS FOCUS ON GROWING THE “TALENT ECONOMY” AT
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM**
More Than 500 Attended Lake County Partners’ Big Event

Lincolnshire, Illinois, June 23, 2017 — More than 500 civic and business leaders came together on Friday, June 23rd at Lake County Partners’ Big Event, the group’s annual forum to discuss growing the region’s talent economy.

Lake County Partners President and CEO, Kevin Considine, said that talent was a fitting theme for this year’s event, noting the organization’s three-year effort to align workforce development with economic development through the Lake County Workforce Ecosystem partnership.

“You told us that talent drives your business and the whole Lake County economy,” said Considine, recognizing that feedback from Lake County businesses directly drove the group’s workforce strategy. “Today, Lake County has the strongest workforce in the region.”

Lake County Partners Board Chairman Joe Luna echoed the strength of talent in Lake County, introducing a [new video](#) showcasing how growing Lake County companies are benefiting from a highly educated, skilled and diverse workforce. Stories of Lake County businesses capitalizing on the talent pipeline are also showcased in the group’s [new annual report](#) that was released at the event.

Opening remarks were followed by an in-depth economic outlook, presented by Sumit L. Desai, CFA, and Vice President, Director of Research for Mesirow Financial Wealth Advisors. The employment market was among the economic trends highlighted by Desai, who noted that unemployment is now at 4.3% –well below historic levels. This environment underscores the need to build a talent pipeline, so companies have access to the workforce and skills they need, even when labor markets are tight. Desai’s talk, titled “The Macro Matters,” advised executives to think about how macro-economic trends may impact their business.

Building on news from earlier in the year, Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor took to the stage, welcoming Caterpillar to the region. Lake County’s 12th Fortune 500 company, Caterpillar, will be moving its headquarters to Deerfield later this year. Lawlor praised Lake County not just for its exceptional workforce, but also for its business climate and diverse communities that continue to attract talent. Lake County is one of only three in Illinois with a AAA bond rating.

Keynote speaker Matt Carmichael concluded the event with 25 trends that are impacting the workforce in Lake County. Largely focused on the Millennial generation, Carmichael offered tips

for companies and communities to attract Millennials, as they are now the largest generation of home buyers, and make up the greatest share of the workforce.

The Big Event is made possible with generous support from the Lake County business community including JPMorgan Chase, First Midwest Bank, Lake County Government, Mesirov Financial, Comcast Business, Midwest Young Artists, Innovation Park Lake County, Horizon Pharma, W.W. Grainger, Loyola University Chicago, a5 Branding & Digital, Abbott, Aerotek, Baxter, BMO Harris Bank, College of Lake County, ComEd, General Mitchell International Airport, Great Lakes Construction Association, Libertyville Bank and Trust, MacLean-Fogg, Miller Canfield, Pro/Data Workforce Solutions, Rosalind Franklin University, Sysmex, Takeda, Trustmark, Uline, United Conveyor Corporation, Van Vliissingen and Co., Walgreens, Gurnee Community Bank, Mundelein Community Bank, Vernon Hills Bank & Trust, Wauconda Community Bank, and Five Grain Events.

About Lake County Partners

Lake County Partners is a 501(c)(3) economic development corporation that works to maintain economic vitality in Lake County, Illinois by creating and retaining quality jobs, stimulating capital investment, and pursuing economic diversity. Lake County promises businesses a highly-educated workforce, beautiful and diverse recreational areas, a gateway to global markets, the right balance between work and play, top-ranking schools nationwide, world-class healthcare in your backyard, global industry leaders, and first-rate quality of life.