



LAKE COUNTY'S TALENT ECONOMY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT 2017 BIG EVENT

More than 500 Lake County Leaders to Gather at Economic Development Forum

Lincolnshire, Illinois, June 6, 2017 — Lake County Partners will host its annual Big Event on Friday, June 23rd, at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort from 7:00 – 9:30 a.m. Set to bring together more than 500 business and civic leaders from around Lake County, the event will focus on “Growing the Talent Economy,” and will explore what companies and communities can do to attract and build the next generation of talent.

Keynote speaker, Matt Carmichael, an author and leading demographics expert, will address the demographic trends that are reshaping the workforce. “More than 10,000 Baby Boomers are retiring each day. At the same time, more than 12,000 Millennials turn 30 years-old each day,” notes Carmichael. “The aging of these generations is having a profound impact on our workforce and our communities.”

“Talent is our most important asset in Lake County, and it’s what sets us apart as a place to do business,” said Lake County Partners’ President and CEO Kevin Considine. “Every business operating here today or considering a move to Lake County needs a highly skilled workforce to fuel their growth, and increasingly, our most critical industries demand it. How we build our talent pipeline to ensure they have the workforce they need is critical to our future prosperity, making the talent economy a fitting theme for this year’s Big Event, and a continued focus for Lake County Partners.”

A recent PricewaterhouseCoopers’ study found that talent is a major concern for businesses. Eight in ten CEOs worry that they won’t have the talent they need to grow, and talent shortages are most critical in fields like manufacturing, engineering, and healthcare—sectors that are at the heart of Lake County’s economy.

“We are taking steps today through our Workforce Ecosystem, working with partners and business across Lake County to build in-demand skills and attract new talent to high-need fields,” said Considine. “Programs like the Big Event are a great opportunity to bring both private and public sectors together to look at shifts in the economy and make sure that we are working together to fuel Lake County’s growth.”

Event attendees will also benefit from the insights provided through an economic forecast delivered by Sumit L. Desai, CFA and Vice President, Director of Research for Mesirow Financial Wealth Advisors. Lake County Partners Board Chairman Joseph Luna and Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor will also provide remarks at the event.

"Lake County understands that government does not create jobs, our 30,000 businesses do," said Lawlor. Our job as government leaders is to foster an environment where businesses can thrive by investing in our workforce and forging partnerships to create the talent pipelines our employers need to be successful. That's why the Big Event is so important. It is a catalyst that brings business, government and non-profit leaders from across Lake County together to cultivate new opportunities to grow our local economy."

The Big Event is the single largest annual gathering of business, and civic leaders focused on collectively working to expand the core of Lake County's economy. Over the past several years, the Big Event has sold out and had record-breaking crowds of more than 500 people. Tickets and table sponsorships are still available and can be purchased online at <http://www.lakecountypartners.com/index.php/about-us/the-big-event-growing-the-talent-economy>.

The Big Event is made possible with generous support from the Lake County business community including JPMorgan Chase, First Midwest Bank, Lake County, Mesirow Financial, Comcast Business, 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, Pro/Data Workforce Solutions, Sysmex, Trustmark, Uline, United Conveyor Corporation, Van Vliissingen and Co., Walgreens 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.

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