



LAKE COUNTY PARTNERS' SIGNATURE BIG EVENT ON TRACK FOR RECORD SUCCESS

Hundreds of Leaders Set To Join In Celebration of Area's Economic Growth & Vitality

Lincolnshire, Illinois, May 7, 2024 — Lake County Partners is thrilled to announce that it is on track for another sold out “Big Event” at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort, this Thursday, May 9th. This signature breakfast event will once again bring together hundreds of key stakeholders, business leaders, and innovators from across the region, making it the premier platform for economic growth and collaboration in Lake County.

The Big Event showcases Lake County's dynamic business community and economic strength, and it is a catalyst for collaboration, idea exchange, inspiration and networking. The program is renowned for its cutting-edge economic development insights, and this year will focus on the monumental impact of artificial intelligence (AI). Keynote Speaker Rajeev Kapur, best-selling author of the book *AI Made Simple: A Beginner's Guide to Generative Intelligence*, will present his revolutionary look at the way that AI is transforming society, shaping technology and creating new opportunities.

“We are looking forward to a tremendous turnout and enthusiastic participation this year,” noted **Steve Madden, CEO of Libertyville Bank & Trust Company, N.A., and Chair of Lake County Partners' Board of Governors.** “It has been an exceptionally strong year for economic growth in Lake County and the broader Chicagoland region. The Big Event provides a unique occasion to gather together with our partners, celebrate our wins, and set the stage for future success.”

Big Event attendees will also receive special insights from **Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart.** “Lake County’s high quality of life is the result of strategic community investments, skilled talent, a supportive business environment, and collaborative partnerships,” observed Hart. “Our abundant resources have fueled regional prosperity and reinforced Lake County’s standing as a national hub for innovation and opportunity.”

One company that has leveraged its Lake County location to expand is Fischer Paper Products. At the Big Event, the company will be honored with the 2024 Community Investment Award for its commitment to Lake County and investment in workforce partnerships and the talent pipeline.

“Fischer Paper Products has had a presence in Chicagoland for over 52 years, and our long history is the direct reflection of support we’ve received from the community,” noted **President and Owner Josh Fischer.** “When we weighed options for the company’s long-term growth, Lake County was a natural choice. In working with local officials, the Village of Antioch, Lake County

Workforce Development, the College of Lake County and Lake County Partners, we've been able to tap into the workforce that we need to drive momentum for future generations.”

Lake County workforce development powerhouses like Gina Schuyler, the CTE Department Chair for Careers and Community Partnerships at Grayslake Community High School District 127, are behind the success of businesses across the county. Schuyler will be honored at the Big Event with Lake County Partners' inaugural Talent Advancement Award for her noteworthy efforts to forge bold new career pathways and mentorship programs.

“Gina thinks outside of the box, and her visionary approach has had a profound effect on students,” noted **Mikkel Storaasli, Ed.D., Superintendent at Grayslake Community High School District 127**. “Her work ethic has quite literally shaped the future of education across the state of Illinois, and her dedication will have a lasting impact on students' lives and the trajectory of business.”

The anticipated success of the Big Event underscores Lake County Partners' commitment to fostering growth, creating new jobs, driving innovation, and enhancing Lake County's competitiveness. By bringing together diverse stakeholders and thought leaders, Lake County Partners continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the region, helping businesses actualize their full potential, and advancing the community's economic development goals.

The Big Event is made possible with generous support from the Lake County business community including Lake County, the College of Lake County, Old National Bank, the Hunter Family Foundation, Schreiber Philanthropy, Abbott, Comcast, the Gorter Family Foundation, Libertyville Bank & Trust Company, N.A., Advocate Condell Medical Center, Aston Carter, BCI Acrylic, CBRE, City of Hope, Great Lakes Credit Union, Illinois Manufacturers' Association, JP Morgan Chase, Lake County Workforce Development, Pace Suburban Bus, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Wight & Company, UCC Environmental, The Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority, Van Vlissingen and Co., Five Grain Events and World Business Chicago.

For more information about Lake County Partners and its initiatives, please visit www.lakecountypartners.com

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.

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