



## **Lake County Posts Best Year on Record for Job Growth and Capital Investment; Leveraging Illinois Incentives for Strongest Five-Year Run in Decades**

**Lake County, Illinois**— Lake County has achieved the strongest year in its history for job growth and direct capital investment, capping off a five-year run that stands as the most successful in several decades – over 4,000 new jobs and \$1.83 billion in capital investment. Fueled by a highly skilled workforce, unmatched global connectivity, and competitive state business incentives, Lake County continues to solidify its position as a premier destination for business growth in the Midwest and nationally.

“Lake County has the assets to compete with anyone,” said Kevin Considine, president & CEO of Lake County Partners. “Our workforce, strategic location in the heart of Chicagoland, and adjacency to O’Hare International Airport — the most connected airport in the world — give companies a global platform for success. But we could not have achieved this record-breaking performance without the job growth incentives from the State of Illinois.”

Just a few years ago, Illinois was often absent from shortlists for major corporate expansions and relocations because of uncompetitive incentive programs. That changed with reforms and modernization efforts that positioned Illinois to go toe-to-toe with other states. Programs such as the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit and the new Reimagining Energy and Vehicles (REV) Illinois program have become essential, table-stakes tools that ensure Illinois competes effectively for high-impact projects.

With state incentives now on par with national competitors, Lake County’s inherent strengths are winning deals.

Over the past two years alone, major employers including Fortune Brands Innovations, AbbVie, Vantive, and Sysmex announced significant expansions in Lake County, bringing substantial new jobs and capital investment. At the same time, growing companies such as Plano Pharmaceuticals, Henry Broch Foods, and Ymer Technologies have chosen to invest and expand locally — reinforcing that Lake County’s growth spans companies of all sizes and industries.

To sustain this momentum, continued investment in development-ready sites is critical. Infrastructure — including power, water, sewer, and proper zoning — is expensive but essential. Speed matters in today’s competitive site selection environment. Counties and municipalities cannot shoulder these costs alone. Strategic investment in shovel-ready sites will ensure Lake County can maintain its winning streak nationally and globally.

Innovation remains central to Chicagoland’s identity. Lake County is home to the largest life sciences cluster in the Midwest and ranks among the top hubs in the nation.

However, leaders across the life sciences sector have emphasized the need to modernize Illinois' Research and Development Tax Credit program. Aligning the state credit more closely with federal programs — including a discussion of transferability — would strengthen early-stage companies and help prevent promising startups from relocating to coastal markets to access capital.

“Chicagoland has the workforce, the logistics platform, the innovation infrastructure, and the quality of life that companies seek,” Considine added. “With smart, modern incentive programs and strategic infrastructure investment, we are exceptionally well positioned to keep winning.”

### **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 a first-rate quality of life.

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