

“ I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge what is, for our company, a significant benefit — accruing WEDC tax credits as a result of our facility expansion and subsequent addition of new jobs. Were it not for the EDC, we would have no knowledge of the availability of this program...the EDC staff hung in there with us to ensure all necessary pieces were in place. Job well done!

”

Tom Gillett, Indianhead Food Distributors, President



2015-2017

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



**Eau Claire Area Economic
Development Corporation**
101 N. Farwell St., Suite 101
P.O. Box 1108
Eau Claire, WI 54702
715.834.0070
www.eauclaire-wi.com

FIND US ONLINE:





from our presidents

The Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation has a consistent record of cultivating positive economic strategies, advocating for local businesses, and promoting innovation within the Eau Claire Area. As a part of the last 3-Year Strategic Plan, we assisted in the creation of 771 jobs, secured \$74.3 million in private sector investment for local businesses, and facilitated over \$544,000 in workforce training funds. The Chippewa Valley Innovation Center, an incubation facility for startup businesses managed by the EDC, is filled to capacity and received a grant to update the facility and modernize equipment. Additional programs and initiatives that we have led include the Idea Challenge and Narrowing the Skills Gap.

Our strategy outlined in this document reflects the determination we have to continue advancing economic prosperity through business and job growth. In addition to our traditional efforts, we will be adding services to advance entrepreneurial services and activities, attract new businesses, collaborate with the private sector to showcase the unique value that the Eau Claire Area offers, and engage with local leadership to promote civic engagement.

For 30 years the Eau Claire Area EDC has been a part of our community, working with enthusiasm to strengthen the local economy through business recruitment, business expansion and retention, and supporting local innovators. It is with the support of our business community that we are able to make the Eau Claire Area a competitor in the global market place through marketing our community assets, facilitating solutions for businesses, and supporting early-stage business growth. By making an investment commitment to the EDC, you support the facilitation of new strategies and initiatives to spur innovation and economic prosperity. Simply put — investing in the EDC is investing in your company's and our community's future.

Lynn E. Thompson

Lynn E. Thompson
2014 Board President

Miriam Gehler

Miriam Gehler
2015 Board President

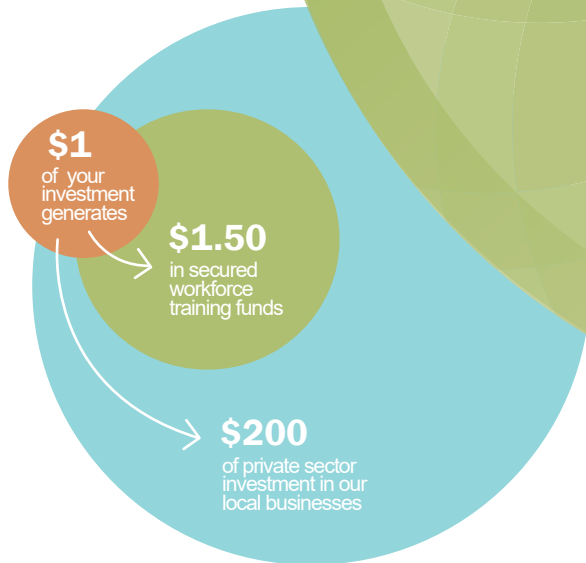
Tim Pabich

Tim Pabich
2016 Board President

FUNDING SECURED

- \$355,000**
grants for innovation organizations
- \$544,000**
workforce training funds
- \$2.76 million**
equity placement
- \$74.3 million**
private sector investments for local businesses

your investment makes an impact



2012-14 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 771** Jobs Created
- 304** Idea Challenge Applications
- 4** Idea Challenge Products Launched into the Marketplace

ACCOMPLISHING GOALS

“ I applaud the Eau Claire regional workforce initiative for recognizing and acting on the need to collaborate with both private and public sectors to address regional talent. Their efforts demonstrate a strong, forward-thinking commitment to their communities and youth. ”

*Robin Kroyer-Kubicek, DPI
Career Pathways Consultant*

continuing services & programs



THE IDEA CHALLENGE

Further new innovative ideas from existing businesses and community residents



BUSINESS RECRUITMENT

Develop and implement marketing strategies to attract new business and industry



WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS

Secure workforce training grants to allow current and emerging business to train employees for high quality, well-paying jobs



YOUR FUTURE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Connect businesses with their future workforce via a free online platform that enables them to provide opportunities to students



2012-14 results

- 146 Business Retention calls performed with businesses located in Altoona, Augusta, Eau Claire, Fairchild, and Fall Creek
- Launched YourFutureChippewaValley.com website to connect businesses to their emerging workforce
- 1 short-term CFO placement to implement financial strategy
- 6 business expansion loans executed
- \$5,282,500 in Wisconsin Income Tax Credits allocated to EDC projects

CONTINUING SUCCESS

“ A major and very helpful function of the EDC is nurturing, encouraging and helping entrepreneurs from idea stage development and funding. We need to grow our economic base organically from the talent and ideas of the budding entrepreneur. ”

Rick Olson, Owner & Founder of KRM

“ When we were looking to build a new warehouse, the EDC was instrumental in assisting us by helping to put together the developers agreement between Bush Brothers and the City of Augusta. The new warehouse is now in operation and has become an integral part of Bush Brothers' operation. ”

Joe Breid, Bush Brothers & Company, Augusta Director of Operations

2015-17 goals

IMPLEMENTING ACTION

- 20 financial program applications to support implementing expansion of local businesses
- 10 patents for products generated from the Idea Challenge
- 5 entrepreneurial events hosted
- 50 projects from private sector and/or board member facilitation generated
- 6 call trips to form and strengthen relationships between the EDC, companies, and site selectors
- \$150,000 for workforce training grants secured
- Form CEO Leadership Council

new services & programs



ENTREPRENEUR SERVICES

Further new innovative ideas from existing businesses and community residents and maintain relationships with previous Idea Challenge applicants



CEO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Create a council to engage in all major projects that need strong civic leadership and intent to enhance the quality of the community



STARTUP WEEKEND

Work with local tech, business, and innovators to come up with original startup ideas and host Eau Claire's first Startup Weekend



For more details visit www.eauclaire-wi.com/about/Strategic-Plan