



YEAR

IN **EAU CLAIRE AREA**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REVIEW



2017 EDC'S COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our mission is to promote the economic prosperity of the Eau Claire Area.

16.4
MILLION

in Private Investment and
Public Sector Funds Secured
for Local Businesses



3 EMPLOYEES

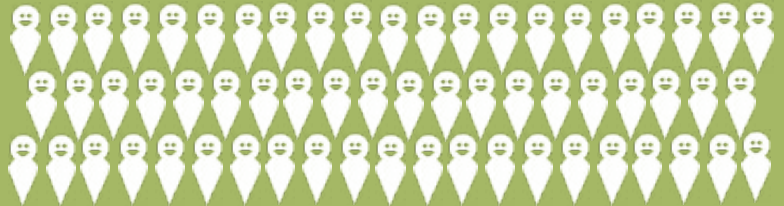
Luke Hanson, Executive Director
Beryl Ouimette, Program & Operations
Christina Wasson, Project and Marketing

62 BUSINESS RETENTION
& EXPANSION CALLS

to businesses in our community to share resources and assist with their retention, expansion, and workforce development

26 JOBS CREATED

generated from EDC led projects



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

IDEA CHALLENGE

www.theIdeaChallenge.com

This annual contest open to all individuals pursuing an idea in the Eau Claire Area. Currently the EDC is working with approximately 20 individuals in furthering their ideas for a new service, product, or process into the market place.

STARTUP 48

www.startup48.co

Eau Claire's weekend-long startup event where like-minded individuals come together to learn what it takes to run a startup. This year we saw the largest turnout yet - a total of 49 individuals registered for the event, almost tripling previous year's attendance.

FIREBALL RUN

In 2017 the EDC had a unique, one-time only opportunity to promote the Eau Claire Area on a internationally viewed travel adventure show, the Fireball Run. Having our community featured on this streaming show will promote Eau Claire to an audience of 9+ million internationally for several years and has already spurred economic opportunities.

INDUSTRIAL SPOTLIGHT TOURS

These brief events are held over the lunch hour and share local developments of current businesses with the goal to increase awareness of the opportunities that exist in the Eau Claire area to local brokers. This past year highlighted properties include the FedEx Facility and the mall re-development of the Estridge Center.



4 SITE VISITS

for businesses looking to expand or relocate to the Eau Claire Area

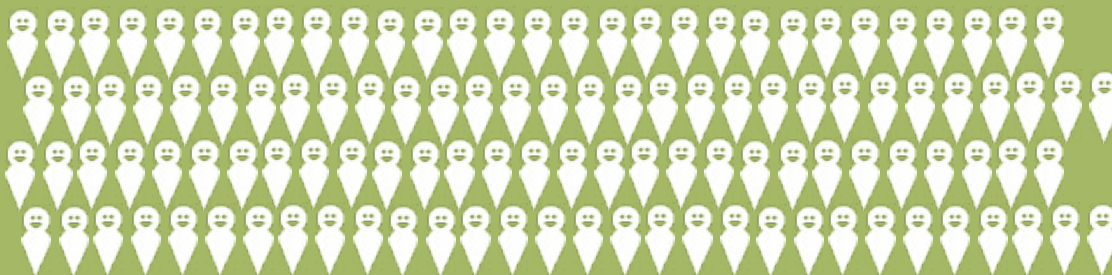
3 LOCAL EXPANSION PROJECTS

Local business able to expanded in our community due to EDC business retention and expansion calls



118 ENTREPRENEURS

assisted through EDC hosted initiatives such as the Idea Challenge and Startup 48



157 COMPANIES CONNECTING TO THEIR WORKFORCE

working with state and regional partners, the EDC has utilized the new Inspire Connections platform to connect our local employers to their emerging workforce in our 6-12 school system.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY WORKFORCE DEMAND SURVEY

www.eauclaire-wi.com/services/workforce-demand

This survey gathers actionable data from our local employers to facilitate workforce grant awards, pinpoint internship and apprenticeship opportunities, and highlight areas to increase recruitment efforts. In 2017, the 3-year results of the survey were analyzed and a few key findings included:

- 85% of companies are already having difficulty in filling certain positions
- 77% of local companies are also concerned about upcoming retirements
- positions most impacted by upcoming retirements include those within the health industry, such as Registered Nurses, and trade occupations, such as welding

INSPIRE CONNECTIONS

www.inspireconnections.com

Connecting employers to their emerging workforce, this free web portal highlights local career opportunities for local middle and high school students to explore.

In 2017, the EDC joined the Momentum West regional initiative in connecting local employers to their emerging workforce of students in grades 6-12. With 157 local employers currently registered, Inspire Connections gives 5300+ students in the Eau Claire Area School District the opportunity to learn about and interact with local employment and careers.

Work-based learning activities that will be available to students include: apprenticeships, job-shadowing, company tours, and more as well as interaction with career coaches.



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The Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation would like to thank our numerous sponsors, investors, community partners, and volunteers for your tremendous support.

It is because of your generosity that we are able to continue to find success in our mission of promoting the economic vitality of our communities.

For more details about the measurements, programs, and initiatives that are mentioned in this publication, please read the 2017 Annual Report.

