



**Grand Valley Metro Council
Strategic Planning Session**

On **April 2, 2015** the GVMC Board of Directors will hold a special Strategic Visioning Session from 9:00 am until noon. A continental breakfast will be provided.

The session will be facilitated by Dr. Lou Bender who has worked with GVMC in the past.

The meeting will be held at the Byron Township Community Center 2120-76th Street in Byron Center. The facility is located in Byron's Whistlestop Park.

This will be a follow-up to last years session. GVMC has continued to expand and transform as we become more involved in regional leadership and collaborations. This session will provide us once again chance to discuss the ever growing opportunities available to GVMC.

West Michigan Continues Our Economic Comeback!

Last week over 700 business, education, economic development and governmental leaders gathered in Detroit for the Governor's Education and Economic Summit. There were two sessions hosted by our West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

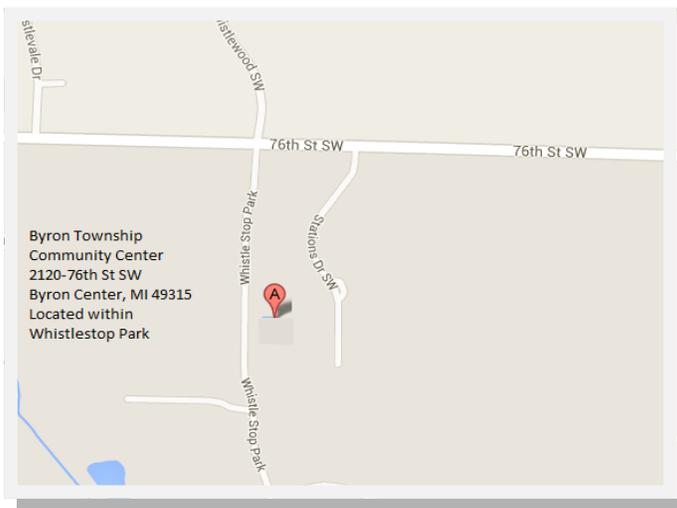
We were well represented with over 125 registrations coming from our region. Our sessions focused directly on West Michigan, our region's needs and opportunities and the "Projects of Economic Importance" that we reselected through the prosperity initiative process.

Some very interesting data was released showing that our region is continuing our economic revitalization. Michigan's unemployment rate in 2014 was 7.2%. That is down from 12.7% in 2010. The 2014 unemployment

rate in West Michigan was 5.7%.

Michigan's population dropped between 2010-2013 by 42,825. At the same time our area grew by 98,665. Our labor force is 780,280. Private sector jobs increased since 2009 by 90,590. This is a 17.7% increase in 5 years.

Another interesting fact is that in February 2015, there were online job postings for 23,160 jobs in West Michigan. That is an increase of 16.9% in a month and 27% in the past year. Can you guess the career that had the greatest number of postings last month? Coming in third was Registered Nurses at 555, Customer Service Representatives were second with 605 postings. The number one career for job postings in West Michigan last month was Truck Driver at 1,570.



Save the Date!

Grand River Spring Forum

GVMC Environmental Programs and the Lower Grand River Organizations of Watershed (LGROW) are pleased to announce the date for the 12th Annual Spring Forum.

Day: May 1, 2015

Time: 8:30-11:30 am

Location: Downtown Market



Everyone is invited! Please save the date for this meeting. RSVP to Gayle at McCrathg@gvmc.org