



March 22, 2014

### **180 Public and Private Sector Leaders Attend Regional Prosperity Community Conversation**

This week in conjunction with the 2014 Governor's Economic Summit, leaders from throughout our 13 county region gathered for our first "Community Conversation on Regional Prosperity".

The group met in DeVos Place to discuss potential projects of significant regional importance and the criteria for selecting those projects. Gathering together were a wide variety of representatives from throughout our area. Education, Workforce Development, large and small business, community planning, governmental leaders, economic development specialists, business groups, non-profit organizations, and many others were represented at the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were Kirk Steudle, Michigan Department of Transportation Director,

Mike Finney, President of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Doug Smith of the MEDC, Bill Rustem, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Snyder and Sara Wycoff also of the Governor's Office.

The meeting was a very positive event and brought many leaders together to discuss regional issues and how we can improve regional collaboration.



Grand Valley State University President Tom Haas stated, "*The attendance of the many individuals at the Session is an illustration of how the leadership and diverse sectors of our community are committed to the*

*region's future prosperity. Our success is dependent on such collaboration, dialogue, and cooperation.*" Wyoming City Manager Curtis Holt added, "*The Session brought together many different people from all areas of West Michigan to discuss issues that affect our region and our State. The more buy-in the better chance for success in the future.*"

Walker Mayor Mark Huizenga was pleased with the event, "*I must say I was thoroughly impressed with the great mix of public and private sector representation. I found many comments at my table to be "big picture" minded and focused on the entire region, not just the city, county, or MSA.*"

### **Grand Valley Metro Council Strategic Planning Session**

On **April 24, 2014** the GVMC Board of Directors will hold a special Strategic Visioning Session from 8:00 until noon. A continental breakfast will be provided.

The session will be facilitated by Mr. 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.

There will be **NO** GVMC Board Meeting on April 3, 2014.

