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Todd Hansen – Metropolitan Community College
Dale Shotkoski – City of Fremont
Mark Shepard – Fremont Public Schools

STAFF

Cecilia Harry – Executive Director
Barbara Pierce – Business Development Coordinator



Fremont Office:
 1005 E. 23rd St., Ste. 2
 Fremont, NE 68025
 402-753-8126



Omaha Office:
 1301 Harney St.
 Omaha, NE 68102
 402-233-7141



Twitter
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GreaterFREMONT

DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



GFDC is a 501(c)6 public-private partnership that works diligently to fulfill its mission to provide leadership for Greater Fremont Area growth initiatives and aggressively pursue targeted growth opportunities that will result in quality job creation and retention.

This was our first full calendar year in partnership with the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership, and we managed more business attraction leads in 2014 than ever before and created unprecedented opportunities to market Greater Fremont to potential investors. We doubled our outreach to existing businesses and helped our companies expand and address critical issues. We also led efforts to renew LB 840, our local option sales tax that supports public safety, infrastructure, and economic development projects.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we begin to implement our ambitious strategic plan that will help the community better prepare for new opportunities, I am encouraged by the tremendous amount of activity GFDC generated and managed in 2014. Greater Fremont is fortunate



to have leadership from the private and public sectors dedicated to growing our economic base, and GFDC is proud to be the vessel that brings stakeholders together to launch and lead economic development efforts on behalf of the community.
-David Mitchell, President

After developing a five-year strategic plan for proactive economic growth that is unprecedented in this community, GFDC launched Fremont 2020, a campaign to secure \$1 million in investment from the private sector to support the ambitious, game-changing programming infused into the strategic plan. The private sector has responded with a resounding YES, they are indeed on board with public sector partners to arrive at 2020 with more jobs, more capital investment, and an enhanced economic base that impacts our existing companies and residents.



Business Attraction

64 leads were generated directly and through partners, and Greater Fremont options were submitted to 51 of the leads. We facilitated 10 community visits, 7 of which were directly related to active projects.



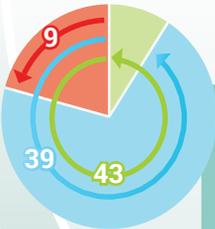
Marketing efforts included trips to Chicago and Dallas to develop relationships with leading site consultants, attending the World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin, and a data center conference in Washington, DC.

Business Retention & Expansion

Fremont Beef Company launched a \$10.6 million expansion project in Fremont, which will create at least 25 jobs.

GFDC visited with 43 existing companies and identified 45 unique opportunities to provide assistance to 39 different companies, including 9 expansion projects.

GFDC led a team of local private and public stakeholders to Lawrence, Kansas to visit with Jayhawk Boxes' parent company, Lawrence Paper Co.



COOPERATION

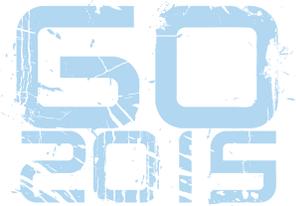
The relationship between GFDC and the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership continues to strengthen and provide benefit to the community.

The amount of exposure Greater Fremont has received through their marketing efforts has led to more interest in Greater Fremont, and the support of 20+ staff with over 250 years of combined experience allows GFDC to provide data, customer service and assistance to prospective and existing businesses that would be impossible with a staff of two.

Workforce Development

GFDC hosted a seminar to expose Greater Fremont area employers to programs that assist with internship placement and costs.

GFDC began to market the integration of Metropolitan Community College's welding curriculum into Fremont High School's new welding facilities, allowing students to earn both high school and college credit while gaining industry skills.



Quality of Life

GFDC launched a redesigned website with new quality of life components to serve as a doorway to the community and provide potential investors and existing stakeholder with access to a wealth of information to help tell Fremont's story to the world.

We Don't Coast, the new Greater Omaha regional brand, was launched, and GFDC has incorporated the brand into marketing efforts to illustrate our community's hard-working attitude and zeal for the type of life style we enjoy.

www.FremontEcoDev.org



GFDC anticipated announcing that the Fremont Technology Park is the first *GO! Ready Certified Site* in the region. *GO! Ready* is a new program through GOEDP that certifies sites to indicate a high-level of "shovel-readiness" to prospective companies who demand this level of due-diligence completed on real estate. It will increase our competitiveness and exposure.

GFDC will complete a targeted industry analysis to help the community better understand what specific industries are a strong fit for Greater Fremont's existing competitive advantages. This will help us ensure we have real estate and workforce opportunities that match our strengths and allow us to market the community specifically to the identified industries.