



August 25, 2014

## Save the Date!

**What:** West Michigan Prosperity Alliance General Session

**When:** October 10, 2014 10:00 am to Noon

**Where:** GVSU Kirkhoff Center (Allendale Campus)

**Topic:** Review and Priority Selection of the Nominated  
Projects of Regional Economic Significance

**RSVP:** Respond to this email or [mccrathg@gvmc.org](mailto:mccrathg@gvmc.org)

Over the past 8 months a group of leaders in the fields of Transportation and Regional Planning, Adult Education, Workforce Development, Higher Education, Economic Development and private business, have been working together as part of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

This journey began with a meeting of 125 people at Fifth Third Ballpark last fall. Soon thereafter, an application for a grant under Michigan's new Regional Prosperity Initiative was submitted and typical of West Michigan, we began to move forward in anticipation of success. A 26 person Steering Committee was selected and began developing a plan of action.

In March, at the Governor's Economic Summit, 182 representatives from throughout our 13 county West Michigan Region, gathered to establish a set of criteria for judging and selection of projects that our region could agree would be "projects of regional economic significance".

These criteria established by representatives of the entire region would be critical as we received nominations for potential projects.

While the Regional Prosperity Alliance operates on a very conservative budget, the goals to develop increased regional cooperation and communication, promote increased regional prosperity and facilitate greater collaboration among the targeted sectors and state government have been very successful.

Throughout the summer, the Alliance received nominations for projects. Over 3,000 invitations to submit were circulated which resulted in 31 nominated projects. Those projects have been reviewed and evaluated. Because this is a very new initiative and specific outcomes are yet to be determined, the process has provided the opportunity for many ideas and projects to come forward.

On October 10, we will hold the third General Session. At the meeting the representatives of the top scoring projects will present their proposals and attendees will be asked to vote to prioritize the top projects.

After our October 10 meeting, our Steering Committee will have a prioritized list of projects that our West Michigan Region seeks to support in the future. That support could involve not only financial assistance, but more importantly advocacy on the local, state and national level as a project that has been determined through a regional selection process.

In addition, the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance will lend its knowledge base, contacts and momentum to assist in the development, collaboration and cooperation necessary to further enhance prosperity in our region.

Please join us on October 10th for this important opportunity to help select our projects of regional economic significance. Your opinion is a valuable part of this journey.

### **GVMC Board of Directors Meeting**

**When: September 4, 2014**

**Time: 8:30 am**

**Place: Kent County Building**