

# IONIA COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE INVESTOR BREAKFAST

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

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### CROSS-COLLABORATION IN FOOD CORRIDOR EFFORTS

Throughout the year, the Alliance engaged with other regional economic development partners to discuss the creation of a food processing corridor along the M-21 east-west highway, which touches five counties across the state. The proposed corridor would span from Shiawassee County into Ionia County, allowing regional assets to be better utilized and marketed for business attraction purposes.

### IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOWNTOWN BELDING

The Alliance facilitated a meeting regarding the Belding Covered Mall with Belding City Manager John Niemela, Michigan House Representative for the 86th District, Thomas Albert, and Brian Harris of the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The meeting opened discussions around best practices for the redevelopment of downtown sites in rural communities, as well as potential opportunities for future development of Belding's downtown district.

### DISCOVER MANUFACTURING

During Discover Manufacturing Week, the Alliance coordinated student tours of several area manufacturers, including Portland Products, THK Rhythm Automotive, Granco Clark and Ventra Ionia. Discover Manufacturing Week is a national effort that seeks to encourage middle and high school students to consider careers in the manufacturing field. More than 150 students from the Heartland Institute of Technology, Belding High School, Ionia High School and the Ionia High School Robotics Group participated in the career exploration opportunities.

## 2011-2019 METRICS

<b>WORKER TRAINING DOLLARS</b> \$1,061,216	<b>COMPANY ASSISTS</b> 630	<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</b> \$186,541,355
<b>NEW &amp; RETAINED JOBS</b> 853	<b>NEW &amp; RETAINED PAYROLL</b> \$24,438,104	<b>TOTAL PROJECTS</b> 15

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# ICEA

Ionia County Economic Alliance



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