



OZAUKEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXPRESS

May 2010

Ozaukee Economic Development 2010 Outreach Event



Roger Kirgues, President
Ozaukee Economic Development



Kathleen Cady Schilling
Executive Director



Mike Gousha

160 Business and Government Executives were in attendance at the Ozaukee Economic Development's third annual Outreach Event on Wednesday, April 28th in Thiensville. The program began at 4:30 with informal networking as attendees enjoyed some of Shully's excellent cuisine while wandering through OED's gold-level sponsor booths and conversing on a variety of business issues. The event brought in key leaders from a variety of industries including manufacturing, health care, education, financial services, real estate and the government sector representing all geographic areas of the county.

Eric Isbister of GenMet, an Ozaukee County business owner for 11 years, mentioned that "the camaraderie and networking atmosphere provided by the OED Annual Event is rare and welcomed. The synergy created by this gathering of the Ozaukee business community will make our combined success greater than the sum of our individual performances."

The program, presided over by Roger Kirgues, President of OED and Principal Account Manager at WE Energies, began at 5:30. Kathleen Cady Schilling, Executive Director of OED, gave a brief snapshot of OED's 2009 activities including several locally financed business expansions and re-locations, three new sustainability programs offered by OED and its partners along with initiatives focused on increasing entrepreneurship within the county.

Keynote speaker, Mike Gousha, Distinguished Fellow at Marquette University Law School and host of WISN-TV's Upfront program gave a compelling speech on the future of Milwaukee and how their future affects all of southeastern Wisconsin. He noted that Milwaukee is at a crossroads and that the region must act now to ensure a bright future. Mr. Gousha stated that Milwaukee must focus on six key issues; reaching consensus on taxes and transit, create agreement within intergovernmental units, seize the moment on a potential water technology future, fix Milwaukee Public Schools, improve the region's race relations and shed our inferiority complex.



Dr. David Borst, Dean of Concordia University’s Business School noted that “the problems that Ozaukee County faces are unique to it as a suburb to Milwaukee. Businesses and interested parties who do not participate in events sponsored by OED are really missing out on staying ahead of the learning curve. Mr. Gousha gave a compelling speech on issues affecting Milwaukee and tangentially then affecting our county. Transportation, education, medical care are all areas that our residents can and should care about.”



After the program, several key executives had this to say about the event.

Dean Amhaus, Executive Director of the Milwaukee7 Water Council stated “the OED Outreach Event was one of the better events in my recent memory. OED cooked up something special – an informative update, a great speaker with a powerful message and a sprinkling of old friends and new acquaintances – what more could you ask for.”



Jim Winistorfer, President of Modern Equipment put it simply “OED once again provided a high value event and an insightful speaker in Mike Gousha. We try never to miss an opportunity to network and learn from other businesses in the area. OED provides a variety of information sources and events that help us stretch our thinking and actions. Thanks for another great event!”



Don’t miss out on next year’s event, plan on being part of *The Business Event* of Ozaukee County. OED again thanks the 2010 Outreach Event Sponsors: Aurora Health Care, Brew City Promotions, Columbia St. Mary’s, Concordia University, Harris Bank, MATC Mequon Campus, North Shore Bank, Portal Inc., Shully’s Cuisine & Events, We Energies, Cook Composites & Polymers, Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce and Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

For more information on becoming involved with OED or being a sponsor of next year’s event, please contact Kathleen Schilling at 262-238-7730 or kschilling@co.ozaukee.wi.us

