

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF VAN WERT LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND TALENT TO VAN WERT

Accelerate Van Wert Campaign Announces It Will Raise \$1.2 Million from Business and Community Leaders; \$678,500 Already Secured

(VAN WERT, Ohio July 19, 2019) On Friday, Van Wert County business and community leaders joined the Business Development Corporation (BDC) of Van Wert to launch the public phase of a \$1.2 million campaign to fund its latest economic growth initiative, Accelerate Van Wert.

The 2019-2023 Accelerate Van Wert Initiative sustains the BDC's role in assisting businesses in acquiring land and buildings, and it also includes an expanded scope of work by which the BDC and its investors can positively influence the Van Wert talent pool and "quality of place" – both of which are essential to supporting Van Wert's existing businesses and attracting new ones. The Initiative includes three mutually supporting goals:

- GOAL 1: Opportunity Fund to Grow Jobs and Attract Capital Investment
- GOAL 2: Attract, Retain and Align Talent
- GOAL 3: Strengthen Quality of Place

Campaign Co-Chairs Andy Czajkowski (President, Statewide Ford Lincoln), Michele Purmort-Mooney (CEO, Purmort Brothers Insurance), and Adam Ries (Chief Lending Officer, First Federal of Van Wert) welcomed guests at the Kickoff breakfast at Willow Bend Country Club.

BDC President and Campaign Co-Chair Andy Czajkowski unveiled details of the plan and announced the campaign's progress to more than 55 business and community leaders. Dean Monske, president of Regional Growth Partnership also shared his own economic development vision for Northwest Ohio and the importance of strong economic development partnerships.

"Through the collaborative efforts of our business and community leaders, we are pleased to announce that Accelerate Van Wert has already secured \$678,500 in five-year private sector pledges – an impressive 57% percent of our campaign goal of \$1.2 million. We are grateful for the support of our early investors and look forward to new investors joining us in the coming weeks," Czajkowski said.

"Accelerate Van Wert builds on our past success and moves Van Wert County forward, ensuring Van Wert will be a place where businesses prosper and readily find the talent and resources they need to grow in our community," Czajkowski said. "But to do this, we must tackle our challenges and most pressing problems head-on. That's why it's so important for the business community to come together and support this Initiative."

"With the investment by the private sector, we will be able to launch some exciting and bold projects targeting the specific needs of Van Wert businesses," Czajkowski shared. "Just a few examples include the construction of another speculative building, flood mitigation for Vision Industrial Park, funding the hire of a workforce development professional to create a single point of contact for talent and workforce development programs in the county (in partnership with the Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation), and providing loans for "brick and mortar" catalytic downtown projects to incentivize the redevelopment of underutilized buildings downtown."

Those interested in learning more about the campaign are asked to contact POWER 10 Campaign Director Matt Chambers at 770.900.3311 or mchambers@gopower10.com.

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