



Powered by The Right Place

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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To our investors and partners,

In January 2022, the Mecosta County Development Corporation formed a strategic partnership with The Right Place to drive long-term job creation, investment, and overall economic prosperity in Mecosta County. Since then, MCDC has greatly increased its capabilities, and become an even more valuable resource to the Mecosta County business community. The MCDC Board provides Mecosta County businesses with the tools, resources, and support they need to grow. In addition to directly supporting the business community, MCDC also works on long-term initiatives to create strong foundations for sustainable economic growth over time.

A collaborative effort between Mecosta County, the City of Big Rapids, Ferris State University, Big Rapids Township, Mecosta Township and other local private sector partners, the MCDC's mission is:

To facilitate and initiate economic development that expands and diversifies the Mecosta County economy, thereby creating job opportunities for area residents.

In 2022, the Mecosta County Development Corporation partnered with The Right Place, West Michigan's leading economic development organization, to provide economic development services for Mecosta County.

This partnership greatly enhanced the MCDC's capabilities, bringing new support and services to Mecosta companies. The county is now a regional player in West Michigan, with access to a wide variety of economic support.

To keep this partnership active and allow economic development resources to continue flowing into the county, we need your support. We ask that you join our efforts to sustain this regional partnership, and work together with us to create the next generation of economic growth in our community.

Michele Graham

Michele Graham, Chair
Supervisor and Assessor
Mecosta Township

Kelly Jo Wawsczyk

Kelly Jo Wawsczyk
Executive Director
Mecosta County Development Corporation
powered by The Right Place, Inc.



DISCOVER MANUFACTURING:

In collaboration with regional economic development organizations, The Right Place facilitated grant funding from MEDC. MCDC received \$3,076, used to cover transportation costs and purchase incentive items for students.



Discover Manufacturing

- Ferris State University
- 55 students from BRHS
- Toured Plastics and Rubber labs
- Students made their own rubber bouncy ball and plastic frisbee to take home

PROJECT ELEPHANT:

Gotion, Inc signed LOI August 2022 for building their first US location of Anode and Cathode advanced battery production.

- September 2022 Boards Voted Unanimously to approve RenZone
- October 2022 Governor Whitmer signed incentive package.



Project Elephant

- 2.3B Dollar investment
- 2,350 jobs over 8-10 years
- Mecosta County Infrastructure and housing growth along with a talented workforce
- Ferris State University certifications and degrees offered

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD, MOCC

Joined the Agriculture Advisory Board for MOCC. MOCC submitted application to the State. January 2023 State approved Agriscience Program for the 2023 school year.



MOCC

- Coming 2023 Mecosta-Osceola Agriscience Program

Kelly Wawsczyk
Executive Director, MCDC

📞 231-923-8884

www.rightplace.org/mecosta

Ferris State, MMTC, and MWWC Partnership

MCDC has played a key role in the partnership between Ferris State University (FSU), Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center-West (MMTC), and Michigan Works! West Central (MWWC) coming to life. We have invited Ben Wood, Business Development Specialist with MMTC, and Chad Marr, Business Service Specialist with MWWC to all retention visits within Mecosta County. After the initial retention visit, follow up visits are scheduled, and MCDC invites Ferris State University and MWWC back to tour the companies and discuss program options that may be available to them.

“This brings together three key pieces of the puzzle to upskill our area workforce,” said Gary Wendlowsky, Director of Corporate and Professional Development. “Ferris providing the training that many are unaware they offer, potential funding through MI Works! West Central and getting the word out through MMTC to the organizations that need training but don’t know where to get it or how to pay for it or the process to access those funds.”

“If Mecosta County does not bring growth and expansion opportunities, the projected population and employment outlook is targeted to decline.”

State of the Region Economic Outlook, University of Michigan, December 2022

Mecosta County Development Corporation Skilled Technology Endowed Scholarship

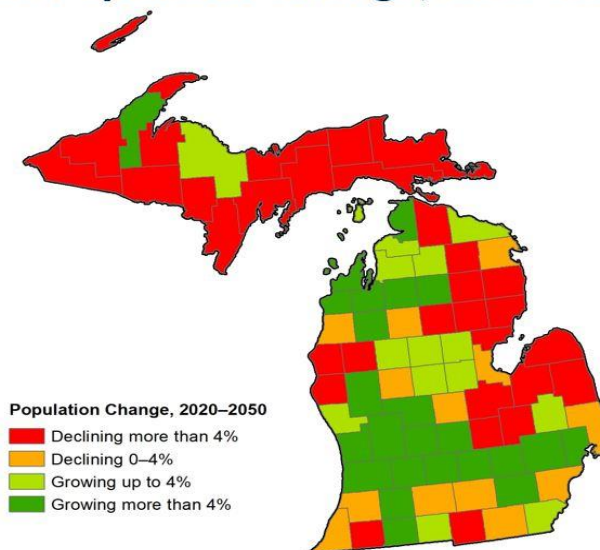
The Mecosta County Development Corporation Skilled Technology Endowed Scholarship was established in 2018 by the Mecosta County Development Corporation (MCDC). The MCDC is committed to helping produce a talented workforce now and in the future for area manufacturers and the business community. The Mecosta County Development Corporation Skilled Technology Scholarship provides a permanent source of financial support for current and future generations of Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District high school graduates, demonstrating the lasting impact MCDC has on the community.

For the 2022-23 award cycle approximately 3,000 students completed a general scholarship application in Ferris’ MyScholarship system for awards this fall and spring.

Of the 3,000, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (OFAS) narrowed the pool down for the MCDC Endowed Scholarship to 87 based on school district, undergraduate status and a minimum 3.0 GPA. When we added in the major requirements (CET or HP), our pool dropped to 21 students.

We are thrilled that MCDC awarded four Ferris State University Students equal award amounts of \$2,120. The recipients included three students in CET and one student in CHP.

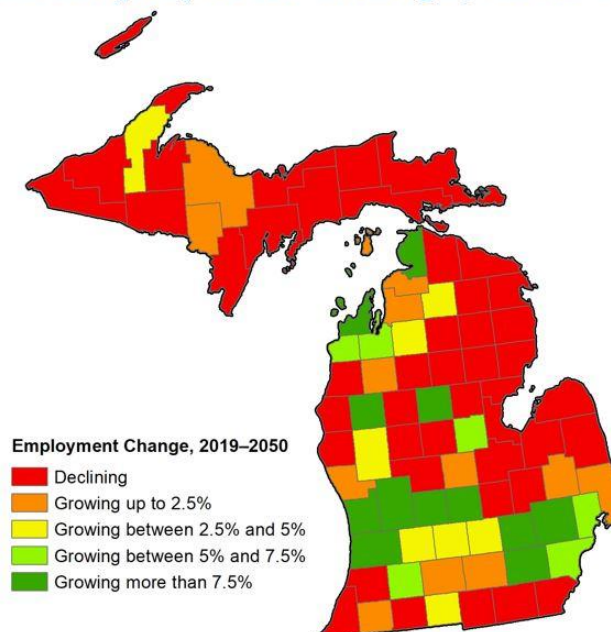
County-Level Total Population Change, 2020–2050



RSQE: November 2022

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QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

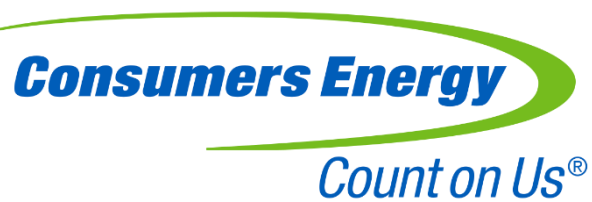
County-Level Total Employment Change, 2019–2050



RSQE: November 2022

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**BIG RAPIDS
CHARTER TOWNSHIP**



Mecosta County Development Corporation's 2022 Board of Directors

- Michele Graham, Mecosta Township - Chair
- Mark Gifford, City of Big Rapids - Vice Chair
- Bill Stanek, Big Rapids Township – Treasurer
- Jeremy Mishler, Ferris State University – Secretary

Board Members

**Executive Committee Member*

- Michele Albright, Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce
- Arlene Anderson Vincent, Ice Mountain
- Jim Bachmeier, Ferris State University
- Bruce Baker, Baker's Management
- Dave Bee, WMRPC
- Paul Bullock, Mecosta County*
- Jim Chapman, Green Township
- John Currie, Clear Lake Golf Course
- Chris Doxsee, TC Energy
- Josh Eling, Isabella Bank
- Jerry Everett, Big Rapids Township
- Brad Fath, Csernai, Lerner & Fath
- Robert Fisher, Lake Osceola State Bank*
- Jerry Garner, Century 21 Real Estate
- Fred Guenther, Big Rapids
- Tim Haist, Big Rapids Public Schools
- Dave Hamelund, Hamtech, Inc.*
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- Shelly Keene, Michigan Works! West Central
- Mark Klumpp, Morton Township
- Connie Koepke, Mecosta Visitors' Bureau
- Rep. Tom Kunse, State Representative
- Gary Lambrix, Lambrix Serve All
- Andrea Leslie, Corewell Health Big Rapids
- Michelle Lewis, Deerfield Township
- Steve Locke, MOISD
- Randy Maxwell, Greenridge Real Estate
- Jeremy Mishler, Ferris State University
- Michelle Moen, Edward Jones Investments
- Dr. Bill Pink, Ferris State University
- Dan Ramlo, Leprino
- Ed Richter, Lakeside Motor Sports
- Thomas Rowland, Horizon Bank
- Steve Sims, Haworth Manufacturing
- Gretchen Spedowske, MOISD CTC
- Tom Stephenson, Connect Michigan
- Patrick Tiedt, Consumers Energy*
- Carolyn Towsley, Austin Township
- Mark Warba, Attorney
- Gary Wendlowsky, Ferris State University
- Jonathan Wilson, DTE Energy

CONTACT

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