



For Immediate Release

*For additional information:
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Economic Development Leaders Form Regional Alliance

Economic development organizations from the 10 Northeastern Illinois Chicago metropolitan area counties, World Business Chicago, and ComEd's Economic Development Department have formed the Metro Economic Growth Alliance of Chicago (MEGA Chicago). MEGA's mission is to grow the economy of Northeastern Illinois through coordinated, effective business development.

"Recognizing the mutual benefits of combining our very different assets, the economic development practitioners have come together to collaborate for greater regional prosperity," said George Lofton, President of MEGA. "Founding members of MEGA have direct links and ties to business clients and have been given the responsibility to represent the economic interests of the areas they serve. By joining forces through a strategic alliance, the group speaks for the region in a way no one else can."

The organization was formed after a series of meetings with the leaders of economic development organizations from Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Grundy, DeKalb, Will, and Kankakee counties, World Business Chicago and ComEd's economic development department. MEGA will promote the creation of jobs and a business friendly environment, and national and international awareness of the economic advantages of the region.

The organization will serve as a point of entry and facilitator for investment for businesses considering locating or expanding in the metropolitan Chicago area. The alliance partners will also provide regional expertise on economic growth and development issues and will ultimately conduct proactive regional marketing to outside investors.

Founding Members and Board of Directors:

DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation
DuPage County Department of Economic Development/DuPageBiz
enterpriz Cook County
Grundy Economic Development Council
Kane County Economic Development
Kankakee County Economic Development Association
Kendall County Economic Development
Lake County Partners
McHenry County Economic Development Corporation
Will County Center for Economic Development
World Business Chicago
ComEd

Officers:

President - George Lofton, ComEd
Vice President - John Greuling, Will County Center for Economic Development
Treasurer – Don Petkus, enterpriz Cook County
Secretary – Karen S. Patel, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation

Founding Members:

- DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation
- DuPage County Department of Economic Development / DuPageBiz
- enterpriz Cook County
- Grundy Economic Development Council
- Kane County Economic Development
- Kankakee County Economic Development Association
- Kendall County Economic Development
- Lake County Partners
- McHenry County Economic Development Corporation
- Will County Center for Economic Development
- World Business Chicago
- ComEd

Existing to grow the economy of Northeastern Illinois through coordinated, effective business development.

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