

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING!

“While Michigan continues to diversify its economy, manufacturing still continues to power the majority of our state’s economy. Business Leaders for Michigan rightly recognizes this value and the role of manufacturing in strengthening our economy and contributing to Michigan’s long-term prosperity. We appreciate its efforts to create a climate where Michigan manufacturers can successfully compete in the national and international marketplace.”

*Chuck Hadden  
President and CEO  
Michigan Manufacturers Association*

“The major themes of the Michigan Turnaround Plan’s 10-plus year vision for growing Michigan’s economy align with the MEDC’s work to support business within our state through our economic gardening program, Pure Michigan Business Connect. It’s important to provide an environment that attracts investment with the best prospects for job and economic growth -- for growing industries including agriculture, engineering, and manufacturing. Leveraging key areas where Michigan has strength such as our automotive expertise, higher education system and engineering talent will not only position the state well for growth but also for competition in the global market.”

*Michael A. Finney  
President and CEO  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation*

“The Small Business Association of Michigan has long championed building and supporting a strong entrepreneurial culture as essential to reinventing our state. We commend Business Leaders for Michigan for identifying the need for a strong base in entrepreneurship as a foundation for growing Michigan’s economy today and in the future.”

*Rob Fowler  
President  
Small Business Association of Michigan*

### GLOBAL ENGINEERING VILLAGE

“On behalf of the 60,000 engineering and technical professionals we reach at The Engineering Society of Detroit, we welcome the initiative of Business Leaders of Michigan in identifying and fostering engineers as Michigan’s strategic asset. Strengthening our state’s engineering base will grow the diverse industries to design, manufacture and export the products and systems needed today and tomorrow.”

*Darlene Trudell, CAE  
Executive Vice President  
The Engineering Society of Detroit*

### GLOBAL CENTER OF MOBILITY

“We are pleased that Business Leaders for Michigan recognizes that the way forward in Michigan has to include the auto industry. We support the mobility initiative, and other efforts that contribute to the state’s growth and prosperity.”

*Jay Baron  
President and Director, Manufacturing Systems  
Center for Automotive Research*

## GATEWAY TO THE MIDWEST

“The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation partners and stakeholders are very pleased with the support and added-value Business Leaders for Michigan generously makes available to the ADC. Our overarching goal of transforming our state into a gateway to the Midwest is vital to our people and our businesses throughout all of Michigan. The ADC very much looks forward to a productive and lasting partnership with BLM on this important initiative for our state.”

*Bryce Kelley*  
*Interim Administrator*  
*Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation*

## HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

“Higher education in Michigan provides a full spectrum of resources for students in the state and for employers in the state. From our technical colleges through our community colleges. Through baccalaureate institutions. Through universities that prepare people for post-baccalaureate work. Almost in every field that you can think about, there’s an institution in the state of Michigan helping to prepare young people, and helping to create that kind of environment where new business can thrive. So, I think in our state we have enormous resources to help drive the 21st Century economy.”

*Mary Sue Coleman*  
*President*  
*University of Michigan*

## LIFE SCIENCES

“We’re very pleased that Business Leaders for Michigan recognizes the importance of our state’s biosciences assets and supports the future growth of our bio-industry as a key economic driver for Michigan. We look forward to working with them closely on this strategic priority.”

*Stephen Rapundalo, PhD*  
*President and CEO*  
*MICHBIO*

## NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMY

“As the state’s largest general farm organization, Michigan Farm Bureau is pleased that the Business Leaders for Michigan (BLM) recognizes the current and future economic impact of our state’s \$71.3 billion agriculture industry. Significant capital investments in the production agriculture arena over the last decade set the stage for tremendous opportunities in food processing. Economic analysis from Michigan State University shows tremendous economic growth opportunities for our \$25 billion food processing sector. We look forward to working with BLM in the months and years ahead as they develop and implement policies to promote Michigan’s Natural Resources Economy.”

*Wayne Wood*  
*President*  
*Michigan Farm Bureau*

“We’re thrilled to see tourism development play a prominent role in this thoughtful plan,” said George Zimmermann, Vice President for Travel Michigan, a business unit of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. “We know that increasing the number of leisure visitors to Michigan from around the country and around the world means more jobs for Michiganders, more income for Michigan businesses and more revenues for state and local governments.”

*George Zimmermann*  
*Vice President, Travel Michigan*  
*Michigan Economic Development Corporation*