



Dean Renniecke
President



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Kathleen Schilling
Executive Director

OED advances the business prosperity of Ozaukee County collaborating with community, regional and business partners ensuring a growing and diversified economy.

Here We Go

It wasn't that long ago folks were talking about Y2K, "What's going to happen once we hit the 2000's?" I was with some airline executives in mid-December of 1999 and they all were assigned flights at the stroke of midnight to prove it was safe. Some computer executives I knew had to be at the office as some had predicted large scale shutdowns in the financial and security world. Needless to say, January 1, 2000 came and life remained pretty much the same. If you want to have a humorous look back, check out some of the commercials made back then. ESPN's "Charlie Steiner Sportscenter" Nike's "The Morning After" DeBeers Diamonds, "Diamonds are Forever", kind of funny to look at them now.

Here we are in 2020, in some cases when I watch the news or listen to reports people seem on edge about where things are going. My Father, Don a longtime educator and lifelong resident of Ozaukee County had some wise advice he shared with our family growing up. "Take care of things most precious to you and those things you can control. Impact those around you and hope it impacts others." Good advice, look around Ozaukee County, we have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to.

Great schools, successful businesses, growth in our communities, incredible leaders in many areas, and a county that has natural beauty throughout the area. Are there challenges, sure, but we are starting 2020 in a GREAT place! The new decade affords us an opportunity to serve and impact those around us in the hope that they will impact others around them. Should we be aware of statewide, nationwide and worldwide events, absolutely, but impact the things you can control, help where you can and be GRATEFUL for what we do have. With a twist on Buzz Lightyear's favorite saying, "Here's to a great 2020 for Ozaukee County and beyond!"

Dean Renniecke, President

**Save the Date
Ozaukee Economic Development
Outreach Event—Thursday, May 7th**

Business Counseling and Financial Loan Programs

Thinking of expanding your business? Have an idea for a new business, but looking for help with financial projections or marketing plans. OED, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center, is offering no-cost business counseling at our Port Washington offices. The counseling can be on any issue related to starting or expanding a business. Popular areas of counseling focus on creation or update of a business plan, financial modeling, assistance with marketing and sales growth plans. The counseling is on an appointment-only basis, but can be set up either directly through Doug Murphy, SBDC: at murphydr@uwm.edu or through our office at: kschilling@co.ozaukee.wi.us

Once you have developed or updated your business plan, OED can assist your company with financial loan programs. OED administers the revolving loan fund programs for the Cities of Mequon and Port Washington, and the Villages of Grafton and Saukville. These loans are low-interest loans that can be utilized in conjunction with traditional financing to provide a more competitive loan package for your business and reduce costs. Loans run from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Business must see job creation develop out of the project. Loans are available at half of the prime interest rate and have terms ranging from 5 to 10 years.

For more information on these loan programs, please contact Kathleen Schilling at: kschilling@co.ozaukee.wi.us

Volunteers Needed For High School Career Fair April 22, 2020

OED is partnering with our area school districts (Mequon-Thiensville, Cedarburg, Grafton, Port Washington, Saukville and Northern Ozaukee) for their annual Career Fair. The event is hosted by Concordia University and provides an opportunity for high school students to learn about a variety of professional opportunities. It is similar to a business expo, individuals or businesses set up tables to talk to students about their profession. Different from a job fair, the focus here is more on promoting the profession, rather than an individual business.

However, as we are all aware, the job market has tightened significantly, so motivating students into your field can help your business. In previous years, we have had a variety of options, ranging from a FBI Agent to Interior Designers to Radiation Techs to Military options. Table set-ups range from simple to interactive which generally helps pull the students in. While a great many volunteers come back year after year, we are definitely looking for new volunteers.

This year's event is being held on April 22nd from 6 to 8 pm. Please consider joining us and promoting your profession.

Interested or have questions—contact Kathleen Schilling at: kschilling@co.ozaukee.wi.us or 262-238-7730.

Keeping Your Employees Healthy—Body and Mind

As the new decade begins, it is a great time to examine your company's wellness policies. Ozaukee Economic Development and the area Chambers of Commerce are partnering with MATC—Mequon to offer an educational program on Employee Health Programs to help maintain healthy bodies and minds. The program will be held on Wednesday, March 11th at the MATC—Mequon Campus (5555 W. Highland Rd) from noon to 1:30 pm.

Dr. Mark Kaepler from Aurora Health Care will speak on developing healthy programs for your employees bodies, looking at heart health, nutrition and cholesterol management.

Jason Gaurke from Ascension Health Care will be speaking on mental health issues, ways to recognize mental health issues in employees and programs available to assist them.

Cost is \$20 Chamber Members—\$25 non—members and includes lunch.

To register, please use our website at www.ozaukeebusiness.org or via e-mail at kschilling@co.ozaukee.wi.us or phone 262-238-7730 on or before March 3rd.



Jay Bayne



STEM Career Fair

OED was pleased to partner with area high schools and MATC-Mequon to put on our first STEM Career Fair. The program was held on November 20th. STEM—an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics—covers many industries. The fair focused on giving 8th to 12th graders a snapshot of two industries—engineering and information technology. Students met in MATC’s main auditorium to hear Jay Bayne, an instructor at MATC, Marquette and UW Milwaukee talk about the interconnectivity of the STEM fields. Following the opening session, students were able to choose three of six sessions offered. Each of the sessions had professionals discussing how they got into the field, what a normal day looks like and what students could consider studying.

The fields available were Bio-Medical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, IT-Security Development, IT-Software Development and IT-Network Development. Additionally, the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Concordia University and Milwaukee Area Technical College were also on site with information on programs they offer. Students from seven area school districts attended.

OED would like to thank the professionals that volunteered their time—Mike Scherer and Peter Guerin from Gauthier Biomedical, Ben Kultgen from Pope Scientific, Kirk Pigatto from Hentzen Coatings, Joel Stockhausen from KAPCO, Sam Goerke from Northwestern Mutual, Nicole Zajork from Direct Supply and Jamie Schramm from Kohler Credit Union.

OED will continue to partner with area schools on similar programs—including the annual Career Fest which focuses on a variety of professional opportunities (see article in newsletter) and in the fall of 2020, Health Sciences Career Night.

Changes within OED Board

In the past year, OED has seen several changes in its board make-up. OED has had several board members retire. **Dianne Robertson**, former Village of Thiensville Administrator, served as a member of OED for over 20 years. She served on the Executive Committee as Vice President of the Public Sector. Dianne continues to work with OED serving as President of the OED Foundation and with Roger Kirgues on developing a new business visitation program for OED.

Roger Kirgues, also a long time member of OED, served well over 20 years. Roger has served in a variety of positions including President. He served as President when OED transitioned from a volunteer organization to an organization with staff. It was under Roger’s leadership that the first annual OED Outreach Event was held. Roger is retiring from We Energies in early 2020. He will continue to work with OED as a Foundation Board member and with our new business visitation program.

Mark Grams, one of the founding members of OED in 1989 retired from the board as well as City Administrator of the City of Port Washington. Mark along with Ralph Huiras and Rose Hass-Leiter, championed the need for an economic development organization and led the effort to develop OED. Mark continued as a board member and has been an active supporter of our organization. We expect to see Mark at OED events when he is not out golfing.

OED has two new members. **James Schowalter**, Senior Vice President at Port Washington State Bank and **Jessica Wolff**, Community Development Director with the Village of Grafton. We look forward to working with them.