

 **Meet Josh Hoppes, LCDC President**

Josh Hoppes was elected LCDC President at the LCDC Annual Meeting on January 22 and will serve a two-year term. Josh is the President/CEO at Mutual Savings Association and has been an active member of LCDC for many years.

 **MAPS, Inc. Announces New Building in Leavenworth**

LCDC announced that MAPS, Inc., or Modern Advanced Print Solutions, will be bringing its imaging and printing products business to Leavenworth. MAPS plans to invest \$1.2 million in a new 10,400 sq. ft. facility in the Gary Carlson Business Park. The company will employ 21 people to start, but that number could grow over time.



LCDC worked with company President and CEO Darrell Yoder to find the right location in the county for the new facility and then worked with the City of Leavenworth and the Leavenworth County Port Authority to craft an incentive package that allowed the project to move forward.



Business Retention and Expansion (BRE)

As important as new business attraction is to a community's tax base, existing business retention and expansion is even more so. According to the International Economic Development Council, *"...most net new job creation will come from existing businesses within a community; therefore, existing businesses are a critical focus for local economic development efforts."*

Existing businesses can experience many barriers to growth such as funding, regulatory issues, workforce attraction, and marketing challenges, so assistance like LCDC provides can be crucial to a business's success. A valued existing business is more likely to consider its community for future growth.



LCDC's BRE program provides much needed support to existing businesses by maintaining positive relationships and providing assistance through resource connection and removal of barriers to growth. In just the past 8 years, LCDC's efforts have encouraged **\$131,103,289 in new capital investment** and have **saved local companies \$10,180,473!**

LCDC held its Annual Meeting via Zoom on January 22 with 62 attendees

The featured speaker was Dr. Chris Kuehl, Managing Director of Armada Corporate Intelligence. Chris talked about the 2021 Economy – Five Positives and Five Negatives to Anticipate. The positives included vaccine rollout, lockdowns being lifted by the 2nd quarter, trade relations, permanent changes in work patterns, and political shifts. Negatives included a retreat from pandemic protocols, cautious business and investment communities, the effect of China on trade patterns, consumers engaging in old habits again, and lingering political divisions.

Harland Russell presented a review of 2020 and how LCDC responded to the pandemic. Harland completed his 2-year term as President. Josh Hoppes was approved by the membership as the incoming President.

The new Executive Committee is:

- Josh Hoppes – President
- Jeremy Greenamyre – Vice President
- Brian Habjan – Treasurer
- Harland Russell – Immediate Past President
- Paula Ellis – At Large

Wes Henning was also appointed as the newest member of the board.

Welcome New LCDC Investors!

Gold Level



Bronze Level



➔ Legislative Efforts

LCDC's efforts of working on legislative issues that have benefited Leavenworth businesses and economic development in the county go back at least a decade. In 2011, then-Representative Melanie Meier, encouraged by LCDC, successfully argued that Leavenworth County companies ought to be eligible for enhanced tax credits through the HPIP program if they were investing at least \$50,000 in new machinery and equipment rather than the higher bar of \$1 million required in metro counties. That change has encouraged millions of dollars of new capital investment by local companies.



In 2017, Steve Jack and then-Representative Jim Karleskint successfully testified in Topeka on behalf of a change to existing state law that would allow Port Authorities to sell land at below appraised value if it is in the public interest through new jobs, capital investment, and increased tax base. The result of that change was seen in the last year with the location of three new businesses – Wilson Glass and IST in the Urban Hess Business Park and the announced MAPS, Inc. in the Gary Carlson Business Park.

This current session, LCDC, along with the Kansas Economic Development Alliance, supported changes to the HPIP law, expansion of STAR bonds, extension of Angel Investor Tax Credits, and expansion of the Rural Housing Incentive District Act. All these pro economic development bills passed both the Senate and the House and are on their way to the Governor for her signature.

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PLATINUM



GOLD



For more information about LCDC, please contact

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