

## Leadership Connect Class Learns About Our Local Economy

November 2019



On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the newest Leadership Connect class met at GHSP in Grand Haven for Local Economy Day. For the LC Alumni reading this article, it may be a walk down memory lane. For those who have never participated in LC, this is a great insight into what you may be missing.

The day started off with talking about the demographics of Northwest Ottawa County. The class learned a great deal about who is living in our community and what jobs contribute to our economy. Manufacturing continues to be the number one source of jobs, with a high multiplier effect and they are mostly full-time jobs. Our manufacturers continue to have a powerful and positive impact on economic development in our community, and this is one of many industries in our community.

Next on the agenda was our business panel discussion. We heard perspectives from Manufacturing (GHSP), Agriculture (Hortech, Inc.), Retail (Sweet Temptations) and Development (NorthStar Commercial). The panel discussed everything from disposable and earth friendly spoons to how hemp is affecting agriculture businesses. The students really engaged with our panel on generational differences, interesting trends, and working with your local government.

After leadership training and lunch, the class was able to talk with our local governmental panel. The panelists talked about collaborations, sharing costs, strategic planning, and what is happening in each part of our community. They provided a great discussion about what a government can and can't do and how "dull government is good government".

Then the class embarked on a guided tour of GHSP, seeing both the new manufacturing cells and the legacy manufacturing cells. GHSP is working to diversify and has moved into the now with technological manufacturing.

Becky Huttenga from Ottawa County wrapped up our day focusing on Agriculture. Becky made the industry of agriculture interesting and appealing. Next month, the class will meet out at the Fillmore Complex for Government Day.

If you would like to learn more about next year's Leadership Connect class, please contact Nancy Manglos at [nmanglos@grandhavenchamber.org](mailto:nmanglos@grandhavenchamber.org).