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MMDC names new president

By SUSAN FIELD
Clare Managing Editor

A Lansing resident with a family background in manufacturing, who is currently employed by the Lansing Economic Development Corp., has been named president of the Middle Michigan Development Corp.

Brian Anderson is scheduled to begin at MMDC Feb. 8, taking over for former president George Dunn, who retired in late September.

Anderson, a graduate of Michigan State University who is working on a master's of business administration degree at the DeVos School of Business at Northwood University, is leaving his job as director of urban development and legislative affairs at LEDC for the job in Mt. Pleasant, MMDC Director of Promotions and Workforce Develop-



Brian Anderson

ment Carolyn Bennett said.

Anderson, who grew up in Grand Rapids and graduated from Northview High School, is married to Kasey Anderson, a Central Michigan University graduate who is associate vice

president of Citizens First in Flint, Bennett said.

Anderson's mother is a retired art teacher and his father is a retired automotive executive, Bennett said.

His grandfather owned a manufacturing business that specialized in product finishing in Wyoming, Mich.

Anderson's family still owns the

business after three generations, Bennett said.

He worked summers at the plant, powder coating parts for automobile and furniture companies, gaining experience in the manufacturing sector and understanding of the process, Bennett said.

With Dunn's retirement, officials at MMDC are eager to get Anderson on board, Bennett said.

"We're really excited," she said. "The timing is right.

"Isabella County has the lowest unemployment rate in the state."

Once Anderson starts, he and other MMDC employees will discuss goals and move forward.

"It's time to create a vision," Bennett said. "And get out there and do some good work."

Dunn had been president and chief executive officer for MMDC

for 28 years.

Under Dunn's leadership, MMDC played a leading role in attracting 26 new companies to the mid-Michigan region, adding more than 2,700 jobs.

With a goal of economic development in Isabella and Clare counties, MMDC often works behind the scenes with corporate interests, building relationships and selling the region as a place to do business.

Richard Barz, MMDC board chairman, said Dunn was directly involved in the formation of the University of Michigan/Central Michigan Community Hospital Morey Cancer Center, the creation of the Mt. Pleasant Area International Relations Council and the ongoing sister city relationship between Mt. Pleasant and Okaya, Japan.