

Middle Michigan Development Corporation

For Immediate Release:

October 23, 2006

For More Information Contact:

Carolyn Bridges Bennett

Director of Promotions and Workforce Development

(989) 772-2858 cbennett@mmdc.org

MIDDLE MICHIGAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CELEBRATES 25-YEARS AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Middle Michigan Development Corporation made known today that they are celebrating 25-years as the Central Michigan Region Micropolitan Area's economic development organization. In the fall of 1981, upon culmination of a 65-member blue-ribbon task force, several businessmen in Mt. Pleasant submitted the original Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. Originally a membership organization, MMDC began with just two clients, Central Michigan University and the City of Mt. Pleasant. Within a very short time the non-profit corporation became a client-based organization, which it remains today.

The original board was made up of fifteen (15) members, with four of the members serving as officers of the corporation – John Cantelon, President (Provost/CMU); W. Sidney “Sid” Smith, Vice-President (President/WS Smith Co.); Ernest Minelli, Secretary (Vice-Provost/CMU); and Leo Staudacher, Treasurer (President/Security National Bank). Of the original Board of Directors, seven (7) are still on MMDC's Board. Over the years, Middle Michigan Development Corporation has grown to represent fifteen (15) clients and has a seventy-eight-member board.

In late 1981, while in search of its first executive director, Middle Michigan Development Corporation board members set sights on planning the development of a “high-tech” park to be located at the southern end of the Central Michigan University campus, and to further develop the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Park. It was on January 15, 1982 that George Dunn began as Executive Director of MMDC with the charge of leading the organization. Dunn had been the Marketing Coordinator with

Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Battle Creek Unlimited, Inc., an industrial and economic development arm of the City of Battle Creek and Executive Director of Cereal City Development Corporation, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and redeveloping the Battle Creek Central Business District.

Johnson, Johnson and Roy of Ann Arbor were hired to do a master plan for University Park and during the planning process it was agreed to include “applied technologies.” The Center for Applied Research and Technology at Central Michigan University, the former University Park, continues to expand as an applied research and technology park, accommodating world-renown scientists and companies. The CART is one of only 11 state-designated SmartZonesSM.

The IDC Park, now known as Mt. Pleasant Industrial Park North, not only was expanded to what is now its current size, but a serious need at that time got the City of Mt. Pleasant and Union Township to extend sewer and water to The Delfield Company, retaining that company as a vital employer in our community.

These parks were the first of many economic development initiatives that Dunn, who continues as President/CEO of the non-profit corporation and the Middle Michigan Development Corporation board of directors have brought to fruition.

In 1999, MMDC expanded its services to include Clare County as well as Isabella County creating what is referred to as “The Central Michigan Region Micropolitan Area”. With a staff of four, MMDC continues to develop and expand its industrial and technology parks, enhance its industrial retention plan, implement new workforce programs and strategies, and attract new companies to the region. “The Central Michigan Region Micropolitan Area is a true gem,” says Dunn. “Our companies have remained strong and diverse throughout the years and our unemployment is low by state standards. I’ve been extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to live and work in such a marvelous community. Barb and I truly feel blest!”

For additional information on Middle Michigan Development Corporation please visit its website at www.mmdc.org or contact George Dunn at (989) 772-2858 or gdunn@mmdc.org.