

Partnership For Success



*Lincoln and Minnehaha County
Economic Development Associations*



Economic development is about PEOPLE

*By Nick Fosheim, Executive Director,
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At our annual meeting this year, we thanked the people who made another great year possible in our two-county area. In 2016, we saw \$176 million in new building permit valuations. Over 300 new single-family homes were built. Taxable sales increased by \$30.8 million and K-12 enrollment in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties exceeded 15,000 students.

These are great numbers, showing the growth and strength of our local economy. But numbers are not the only things that define economic development—it's also about **people**. New construction means career opportunities for people of all ages. New homes mean security and comfort for hundreds of families. Taxable sales increases mean a rise in our quality of life. And more students enable our educational systems to add programs and build new schools to help prepare our children for a better future.

People are essential to every part of economic development, from the volunteer board members of local development groups to the business decision makers who choose to expand their operations.

Our own LCEDA and MCEDA board members put in many extra hours this year, working on a strategic plan for a stronger future for our organizations. In every community, people are pulling together to make their town better and futures brighter—not to make the statistics of success higher, but to build a better life for themselves, their neighbors, and especially, their children.

We have a lot to be thankful for in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties. We are blessed with a lifestyle that often brings us here and keeps us here for life. Our economy is strong, our communities are pro-active and our neighbors are friendly and hard working. All of those positive elements revolve around PEOPLE. That's why we live here and why economic development works here.