



## Dodge County SHRM and GHDP Partnership Results in Grant

*Enterprising Leadership Grant will help fund area Labor Availability Analysis*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEFFERSON, Wis., December 18, 2017 – The Wisconsin Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) has awarded the Dodge County SHRM Chapter an Enterprising Leadership Grant for its partnership with the Glacial Heritage Development Partnership (GHDP). The grant funds initiatives that are innovative and strive to bring business professionals together toward a common cause.

The Dodge County SHRM and GHDP began working together in March of 2017, with a specific focus on helping Dodge County manufacturers attract the workers they need. The GHDP proposed completion of a Labor Availability Analysis specifically focused on documenting the availability of workers willing to work in manufacturing in Dodge or Jefferson counties, and to further document the wages and benefits necessary for workers in the labor shed area to accept first, second and/or third shift positions in manufacturing in Dodge County.

“This type of study has never been done in the State of Wisconsin,” noted GHDP President Vicki Pratt, CEcD. “With more than 62 percent of Dodge County’s employed residents currently commuting out of Dodge County to work, the goal is to better understand how we can keep these workers employed in Dodge County, and specifically in manufacturing, the county’s largest industry.

“Our very tight labor market makes getting this information essential to our largest employers. We know everyone is trying to hire – this study will provide us with data about the actual number of workers willing to consider jobs in manufacturing in Dodge County,” Pratt added.

“Dodge County, as well as Wisconsin SHRM, is pleased to be part of this project,” said Mary Vogl-Rauscher, Dodge County SHRM President. “We understand the importance of manufacturing in Wisconsin. As a SHRM chapter, we want to support not only our members, but also collaborate with the needs of the employers and the communities we are part of. We believe the information that will be obtained is much needed and will be a tool that benefits our members and area employers.”

The study will deliver specific information about the availability of manufacturing workers in a labor shed area that picks up municipalities across a ten-county area. Mayville, WI will be used as a central point in Dodge County due to its heavy manufacturing presence. The central point in Jefferson County is the City of Jefferson. The study will also deliver specific information about the willingness of workers in the area with no manufacturing experience to accept a position in manufacturing.



The study is being done in partnership with the City of Jefferson, as part of their award from the Economic Development Administration following the closing of the Tyson plant. Jefferson County, the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium and the City originally planned to complete a labor shed analysis. However, after the formation of the GHDP and the signing of a partnership agreement with Dodge County, Pratt promoted completion of a Labor Availability Analysis specific to manufacturing across the two-county region. Following an RFP process, the Docking Institute of Fort Hays State University was chosen to complete the study. The Enterprising Leadership Grant of \$2,000 will offset costs incurred to complete the study, which is expected to be completed by April 2018. The GHDP intends to share the results of the study broadly in April and May of 2018.

### ***About the GHDP***

The Glacial Heritage Development Partnership is a non-profit 501(c)3 public-private organization created to promote the economic competitiveness of the Jefferson and Dodge County region by providing professional economic development services for the purpose of retaining, expanding and attracting capital investments and driver industry jobs to our communities. It was formed in mid-2016 and engages the private sector in economic development activities.