

Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation

Annual Report

April, 2019

Submitted by Chairman Nick Smiar

The Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation (EDC) promotes the economic prosperity of Eau Claire County. The organization is funded by both public sector entities and private businesses. The EDC provides a wide range of free services for entrepreneurs and businesses. Their activities center on strengthening local businesses, supporting the local talent pool, recruiting new businesses to the community, and supporting our local entrepreneurs.

Both the county board chair and the county administrator serve on the EDC Board. During the past year, highlights of the EDC's activities within our community include the following:

- Securing more than \$16 million in private investment and public sector funds for local businesses
- Hosted the Chippewa Valley HATCH program, the first regional pitch competition, providing \$11,000 of total funding to entrepreneurs via Brightstar
- Assisted over 115 entrepreneurs through various EDC hosted initiatives
- Led Startup 48, a weekend-long event that provides attendees hands-on experience on running a startup business as well as direct connections to our community's resources; 47 individuals attended and 4 individuals were eligible to present at the Wisconsin's Big Idea Tournament in April of 2019
- Compiled data for the 2018 Chippewa Valley Workforce Demand Survey to facilitate workforce grant awards, pinpoint internship and apprenticeship opportunities, and highlight areas to increase recruitment efforts.
- Collaborated with Momentum West to connect over 100 employers in the Chippewa Valley to their emerging workforce of over 36,000 students utilizing the Inspire Connections web portal
- Assisted 11 local businesses with their expansion projects within Eau Claire County

For more information about the EDC and to view their annual report, please visit <http://www.eauclaire-wi.com>