



Quarterly News

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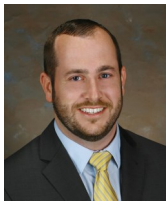
DENSO to Invest \$63 Million in Battle Creek Facility

On September 8, DENSO announced that it would invest \$63 million in its Battle Creek facility. The announcement followed Governor Gretchen Whitmer's visit to DENSO's headquarters in Kariya, Japan. The investment will support DENSO's transition to manufacturing components for electric vehicles.

DENSO is one of the world's largest automotive parts companies. Its Battle Creek plant serves as the lead production facility for the company's North American thermal business, which produces automotive air conditioning and engine cooling components. The 100-acre campus spans nearly 1.4 million square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space across six buildings.

"We are excited to announce a \$63 million investment in Battle Creek, building on DENSO's footprint in Michigan and continuing our economic momentum," said Governor Whitmer. "This investment mission has given us the opportunity to connect with leadership at companies like DENSO and tell Michigan's story. Together, we are bringing critical supply chains and investments back home, proving that anyone can 'make it' in Michigan. Thanks to announcements like today's, Michigan will remain a global leader in the future of mobility and electrification."

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From the President's Desk

By Joe Sobieralski

The fall is always a busy time for us at Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU), and 2023 has been no exception. In September, I traveled to Japan with BCU Vice President Robert Corder and our Japan Advisor Ken Masumoto. This was BCU's first trip back to Japan since 2019.

After several business meetings in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Osaka, we met up with Governor Gretchen

Whitmer and the Michigan delegation, which included representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC), the Detroit Regional Partnership and Oakland County. We attended an event hosted by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), where Ambassador Rahm Emanuel joined Gov. Whitmer in promoting opportunities in Michigan. We then traveled to Nagoya and visited DENSO's headquarters in Kariya, where DENSO announced a new \$63 million investment in Battle Creek.

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United Federal Credit Union to Open Battle Creek Branch

United Federal Credit Union (UFCU) will open their first full-service branch in the Battle Creek market in early 2024. The new location will be in The Milton, located in the heart of Battle Creek's downtown business district. The state-of-the-art branch will occupy 2,900 square feet of space and house seven full-time staff, including tellers, mortgage loan officers, and commercial lenders.

Construction on UFCU's new branch in The Milton will begin in late fall, with the opening expected in the first half of 2024. The Milton opened in 1931 as the home of Old Merchants National Bank & Trust Company. After being vacant for more than 10 years, the building underwent a \$38 million renovation and reopened in 2020. Today, 19-story building is home to 85 apartments and 32,000 square feet of commercial space along Michigan Avenue.

United Federal President & CEO Terry O'Rourke said, "Our growth and expansion into the Battle Creek community is a testament to UFCU's commitment and dedication to helping more people in this growing area."

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BC Food Reimagined Receives \$3.3 Million Grant

Battle Creek Unlimited, via the Battle Creek Food Reimagined (BCFR) Initiative, was recently awarded a grant for \$3,300,000 from the MEDC's Small Business Support Hubs (SBSH) program. The grant was one of 27 announced by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer in early November, which totaled \$75 million. Funds were provided by the American Rescue Plan to

strengthen and establish inclusive, accessible, and effective regional ecosystems for entrepreneurs.

In 2022, BCU launched the BC Food Reimagined Initiative, a community-led effort that leverages the City of Battle Creek's rich heritage of food innovation and existing food assets.

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First Food Prize a Huge Success



The 2023 Food Prize contestants pose with their prize checks.

On Saturday, October 7, Battle Creek held the inaugural Food Prize at Kellogg Arena. The event was a collaboration between Battle Creek Food Reimagined, the City of Battle Creek Small Business Development Office, and Sprout BC. Supporting organizations included Penetrator Events, Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek Community Foundation, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Taste the Local Difference, and the Binda Foundation.

The event showcased aspiring food entrepreneurs through a pitch competition. More than 500 attendees came out and sampled a variety of innovative foods from food producers across Southwest Michigan. Entrepreneurs competed in two tracks: Food Manufacturing/Packaged Foods and Catering/Restaurant. In total, \$40,000 in cash prizes and \$12,500 in technical assistance packages were awarded. Finalists included:

Food Manufacturing/Packaged Foods

- Café Rica Canned Coffee
- Ciao Bella Chocolat
- Eat Food With Happiness
- Elis Doces
- Jerk Your Beef Jerky
- Sticky Spoons Jam

Catering/Restaurant

- Farm 2 Fork
- Missing Link Carts & Catering
- Pops Gut
- Sugar Shop
- Suipi's East End Eatery

Winners in the Food Manufacturing category:

- First Place (\$10,000) - Sticky Spoons Jam
- Second Place (\$7,000) - Elis Doces
- Third Place (\$3,000) - Ciao Bella Chocolat

Winners in the Catering/Restaurant category:

- First Place (\$10,000) - Pops Gut LLC
- Second Place (\$7,000) - Missing Link Carts & Catering
- Third Place (\$3,000) - Sugar Shop

The other participants received \$2,500 technical assistance packages, courtesy of MSU. This could include marketing support, website development, help with nutrition labeling, regulatory support and other related services.

The event was not just a competition, but a celebration of the creativity and passion that drives Southwest Michigan's food scene. It was a reminder that food brings people together, inspires innovation, and creates a sense of community.

Thanks to all the organizers, supporters, judges, and participants who helped make this event a success. Look for an even bigger and better event in 2024!

DENSO Earns MMA Awards

The Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA) recently recognized DENSO's Battle Creek operation at its annual Manufacturing Excellence Awards. At a ceremony held in East Lansing in early November, the MMA named DENSO a 2023 Manufacturing Talent Champion as well as a Top 3 Finalist for the 2023 Manufacturing Community Impact Award.

The Manufacturing Excellence Awards is a statewide celebration of the exceptional contributions that Michigan manufacturers make to their workforces, their communities, the economy, and industry. The program promotes the inspiring stories of Michigan's manufacturing industry, which employs over 630,000 people and produces \$102 billion in goods each year. It also showcases thousands of unique manufacturing companies across the state, the hundreds of thousands of Michiganders employed in the industry and the local communities that support it. DENSO in Battle Creek earned its awards for taking active steps to attract Michigan's next-generation workforce to manufacturing's many career paths while giving back to the community.

"We are thrilled to receive two recognitions at this year's Manufacturing Excellence Awards," said Matt Briden, Vice President of North America Thermal Business Planning at DENSO in Battle Creek. "It's a credit to our people, a team of more than 2,100 who work together every day to share new knowledge, help each other grow, and contribute to projects that make southwest Michigan a great place to live and work."

In Battle Creek, DENSO's employee talent initiatives include on-the-job training, mentorship programs, and upskilling opportunities at its North Technical Training Center, which offers lessons on the latest advanced manufacturing approaches.

The location is also active in the community as coaches of First Robotics programs, is involved in various STEM initiatives, offers scholarships through the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center, and supports a mobile community unit through Kellogg Community College to promote skilled trades. Other local organizations the site collaborates with include the United Way of Battle Creek, the Burma Center, the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Battle Creek Pride, and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, among others.



Shuichi Kamakura, President of DENSO Manufacturing Michigan Inc., poses with the DMMA team at the 2023 Manufacturing Excellence Awards ceremony.

IPUSA Breaks Ground on Phase 2 Watkins Road Spec Building

BCU has sold 34 acres of land to Industrial Partners USA (IPUSA) for the construction of a new spec building. The property is located on Watkins Road along Interstate 94, just off exit 92. This will be the developer's second spec building in Battle Creek. IPUSA began work on the project the last week of October.

The new building will total 504,000 square feet and will be built in two stages. The first half of the building is expected to be ready in fall 2024. The building will feature 32' ceilings with columns spaced at 50' x 50'. Plans call for the building to have 34 dock doors, with additional knockouts for future development. IPUSA expects to invest approximately \$20 million for the entire 504,000 square foot complex.

The 34-acre parcel was owned by the Battle Creek Tax Increment Finance Authority (BCTIFA), which is managed by BCU. BCTIFA acquired the property in 1997 and has since leased it for farmland.

This new investment is the next phase of a project that began in July 2020, when BCU sold 55 acres to IPUSA. The developer built a 270,000 square foot spec building on the site, which has since been completely leased. The developer also sold 5 acres to Consumers Energy, which will be used for a future substation.

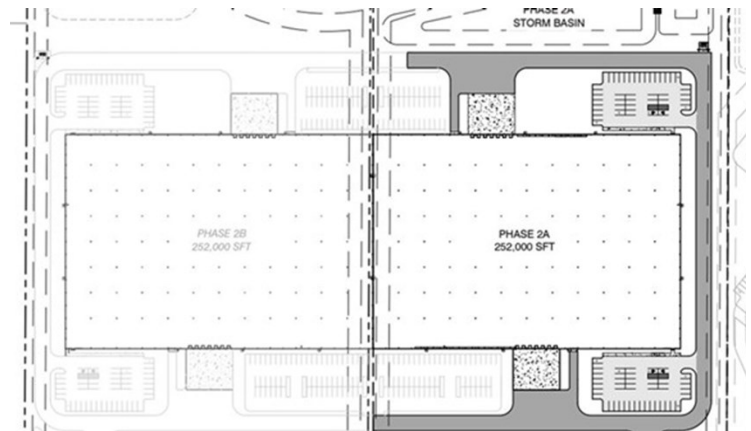
IPUSA is a joint venture between Clark Logic and Great Lakes Capital (GLC). Clark Logic is based in Portage, Michigan and provides warehousing, real estate management, and transportation & logistics services. Established in 1969, today it owns more than 45 properties in Southwest Michigan, totaling more than 2 million square feet of space. GLC is a private equity firm established in 2005 in South Bend, Indiana. The company invests in office, industrial, retail, medical office, multifamily, and mixed-use space. Its portfolio includes seven industrial spec buildings in northern Indiana, home to companies like Amazon, AM General, and Borg Warner.

Jeff Smoke, Managing Director & Principal at GLC, said, "We are excited to continue the momentum of our first spec building in Battle Creek. BCU has been a great partner as we seek to add modern, cross-docked industrial space to the Fort Custer Industrial Park. This

252,000 square-foot building, which can be expanded to 504,000 square feet, will be completed in September of 2024. We are already seeing significant tenant interest for Q3 2024 delivery."

"This new building will be a great addition to Battle Creek, which continues to have an acute shortage of industrial space," said BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski. "There is a lot of interest in Battle Creek, especially given our proximity to the Ford BlueOval Battery Park site, just 14 miles east of this site. There is a huge demand for turn-key buildings that are move-in ready. This kind of facility will bring new jobs and additional investment to our region. We greatly appreciate IPUSA's continued investment in Battle Creek."

In support of the project, the BCTIFA partnered with the City of Battle Creek to upgrade Watkins Road, which provides access to the site. The road was resurfaced and widened to add a dedicated turn lane. The intersection at Watkins Road and Mercury Drive was also widened. The road improvements were completed in 2022 at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million.



Proposed layout for the Phase 2 Watkins Road Spec Bldg.

Zoetis Sets Up Battle Creek Warehouse

In October, it was announced that animal health company Zoetis would expand its operations in Southwest Michigan. The company will expand its facility in Kalamazoo and establish a warehouse operation in Battle Creek. Zoetis has leased the 270,000-square foot spec building developed by Industrial Partners USA on Watkins Road.

Zoetis produces medicines and vaccines for both livestock and pets. It was spun out of pharmaceutical company Pfizer in 2013. The company is investing \$115 million in a new manufacturing facility, with production, lab and packaging space in Kalamazoo. This expansion necessitated a new warehouse space, which they found in a short drive from Battle Creek.

With this project, Zoetis' recent investment in the region totals nearly \$400 million. Southwest Michigan was chosen for the project over other global sites. In total, Zoetis expects to add 59 new life science jobs regionally. The state supported the project with a performance-based grant of \$295,000.

"Battle Creek Unlimited congratulates Zoetis on their expansion and is thrilled that Battle Creek's speculative building development and Foreign Trade Zone #43 played a small role in Zoetis choosing to expand in the region," said BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski. "Their growing footprint into Battle Creek is a great addition to our community. We look forward to working with them for many years to come."

DIF Committee Changes

BCU is pleased to announce several changes to the Direct Investment Fund (DIF) Committee. John Banks of Motor Shop Electrical Construction Co. and Jennifer Heinrich of the Jessup Group both recently stepped down from the committee. John joined the committee in 2014 while Jennifer joined in 2018.

In their place, Mallory Avis and Kyle Labreque have joined the committee. Mallory serves as the Transit Director for the City of Battle Creek, while Kyle is a Commercial Risk Management Advisor at Worgess Agency, an insurance and financial services firm based in Battle Creek.

The purpose of the DIF is to stimulate economic growth and support direct job creation/retention in the City of Battle Creek. It provides gap financing primarily for the development and expansion of small businesses. We appreciate John and Jennifer's years of service and look forward to working with Mallory and Kyle.

Michigan's Chief Mobility Officer Visits Battle Creek

Justine Johnson, the state's new Chief Mobility Officer, visited Battle Creek on October 2 to learn more about BCU and its effort to develop a drone park.

BCU provided Justine with an overview of MICH-AIR and the region's aviation assets. She then met with Dr. Ray Thompson, Dean of the WMU College of Aviation, and Jason DeGeorge, College Chair. They explained the college's three majors (Flight Science, Aviation Technical Operations, and Aviation Management) and talked about the college's interest in unmanned aerial systems (UAS). From there, she toured the proposed site for MICH-AIR, on the west side of the Battle Creek Executive Airport. Justine also met with Andy Richards, Chief Operating Officer at Duncan Aviation, who gave her a brief tour of their aviation maintenance facility.

Justine took over as the head of the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME) in late August. OFME is part of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and works across state government, academia, and private industry to enhance Michigan's mobility ecosystem, including developing dynamic mobility and electrification policies and supporting the startup and scale up of emerging technologies and businesses. Importantly, mobility encompasses not only passenger vehicles and freight trucks, but also

the aviation, marine, and rail sectors.

OFME is responsible for implementing the MI Future Mobility Plan, a comprehensive strategy that addresses future mobility challenges by growing the mobility workforce, providing more accessible transportation infrastructure, and developing innovative mobility policies. The plan outlines three broad goals:

- Transition and Grow Michigan's Mobility Industry and Workforce
- Provide Safer, Greener and More Accessible Transportation
- Lead the World in Mobility and Electrification Policy and Innovation

BCU greatly appreciated the time Justine spent in Battle Creek and looks forward to working with OFME as the MICH-AIR project accelerates.



Chief Mobility Officer Justine Johnson tries out the airplane simulator at WMU's College of Aviation.

Battle Creek Welcomes Visitors from Takasaki

Battle Creek recently played host to two representatives from Takasaki, its sister city in Japan. The Takasaki municipal government has a professional development program which sends young employees abroad to improve their language skills and conduct research on a topic related to their job. In October, Shunsuke Fujisawa traveled to Battle Creek enroute from Chicago to New York City. In November, Ayami Takei also visited Battle Creek before spending several days in NYC.

Shunsuke currently works for Takasaki's international relations department and was researching how American cities support expats, immigrants, and refugees. Ayami works for Takasaki's public relations department and was interested in learning how organizations here utilize social media in their strategic communications. Staff from the city and BCU helped arrange meetings for Shunsuke and Ayami and showed them around Battle Creek.

Battle Creek and Takasaki have been sister cities since 1981. Takasaki is in Gunma Prefecture, approximately 75 miles northwest of Tokyo. The city has almost 373,000 people and is home to the Kellogg cereal factory in Japan. Since 2017, six staff from Takasaki have visited Battle Creek as part of their international professional development trip.



LEFT: Shunsuke Fujisawa poses with Tony the Tiger at the Battle Creek Welcome Center. RIGHT: Ayami Takei visited Battle Creek's Takasaki Park during her recent visit.



UFCU cont'd from page 1

We are ready to work with our new Members and local businesses to achieve their financial goals through outstanding products and services, as well as with our team of experts who take the complexity out of banking."

BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski stated, "We are extremely excited to welcome such a strong and strategic financial partner to Battle Creek. UFCU has demonstrated time and time again their willingness to help BCU continue its redevelopment efforts. We are thankful for their investment in downtown and their desire to partner with the Battle Creek community."

"Our strength comes from knowing our

Members better than anyone and from rolling up our sleeves with community partners like BCU to make the biggest impact possible for all," said O'Rourke.

In recent years, UFCU has taken on the role of senior lender on several major community development projects in Battle Creek, totaling approximately \$25 Million. These projects include the renovation of the DoubleTree Hotel (the former McCamly Hotel), Restore (269)'s redevelopment of the Anson Hotel, and the refinancing of The Milton. Along the way, UFCU has also partnered with financial institutions like Kellogg Community Credit Union and Blue Ox to bring these projects to fruition.

UFCU was founded in 1949 in St. Joseph, Michigan. The organization has grown from a cash box in a personnel office to 35 branches in Arkansas, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio with \$3.9 billion in assets. UFCU has over 186,000 members and more than 900 employer partners. For the past 25 years, UFCU has maintained a 5-star rating from Bauer Financial, one the country's premier financial ratings services.

In addition to its strong financials, UFCU is focused on giving back to the communities it serves. On top of the paid time off every employee of UFCU is provided to volunteer in their communities, the credit union invests more than \$600,000 annually through community donations and sponsorships.

DENSO cont'd from page 1

"We are grateful for the Governor's commitment to strengthening Michigan's position as an advanced mobility leader," said Andy Clemence, a Senior Vice President at DENSO and leader of the Green Business Group. "While our locations across the globe and North America are vital to our mission of contributing to a better world, we are proud of the impact that our Michigan teams have in designing, developing, testing, and producing DENSO products. The investment will help our team build upon our rich legacy in the state and propel us toward a greener, safer future."

Officials say this new investment solidifies the company's commitment to mobility transformation and its work in Michigan. DENSO is a member of the MEDC's Talent Action Team and has partnered with the state on the EV scholarship program announced earlier this year. Going forward, officials at DENSO say the company will continue to work with the state to enhance workforce development, child care access, and housing access in Southwest Michigan.

"DENSO's latest announced investment into its Battle Creek facility

is significant in many ways," said BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski. "It underscores DENSO's on-going commitment to the Battle Creek community during a historic shift within the automotive industry. This investment also speaks to DENSO's commitment to work with the State of Michigan and the local community, along with our local and regional workforce partners to upskill existing employees which will keep jobs right here in Battle Creek. BCU has been building relationships with DENSO since 1976. Over the past five decades, the company has become Battle Creek's largest employer. This new announcement will position DENSO to continue to grow in Battle Creek for years to come. We thank DENSO for this investment, and for their continued confidence in the Battle Creek community."

BCU had its first meeting with DENSO, then known as Nippondenso, in 1976. The company set up a distribution center in the Fort Custer Industrial Park in 1980. Today, DENSO has more than 2,100 associates and two affiliated companies, Systex and DENSO Manufacturing of North Carolina (Michigan Plant), which together have more than 500 employees, as well as several key suppliers.



The Michigan delegation poses with DENSO executives at their global headquarters in Kariya.

Road Construction Season Wraps Up

2023 was a busy road construction season in Battle Creek, with several large projects completed.

- In September, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) completed the reconstruction of the Capital Avenue SW bridge over I-94. This is part of a two-year, \$160 million project to repave 10 miles of I-94 between Helmer Road and 17 1/2 Mile Road, rebuild nine bridges, and repair six others.
- MDOT repaved 2.1 miles of Columbia Avenue (M-37) from Helmer Road to Skyline Drive. The project cost \$895,000 and was completed in late October.
- In mid-November, the City of Battle Creek completed the new roundabout at Skyline Drive and Hill Brady Road in the Fort Custer Industrial Park.

Work will continue through 2024 on the new entrance for the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base off Skyline Drive.



In 2024, MDOT will rebuild the eastbound I-94 bridges at 6 1/2 Mile Road, Beadle Lake Road, 9 Mile Road, and the Kalamazoo River. They will also finish painting the bridges at I-194/M-66, F Drive North, and 17 Mile Road. Eastbound I-94 will be repaved from west of Helmer Road to 6 1/2 Mile Road, from 9 Mile Road to the Kalamazoo River, and from I-69 to west of 17 1/2 Mile Road. Westbound I-94 will be repaved from 17 1/2 Mile Road to I-69, and from the Kalamazoo River to 9 Mile Road.

New Social Media Launched for Food Reimagined, Hotel

BCU recently launched a new website, Facebook, and LinkedIn page for BC Food Reimagined (BCFR) project:

- Website www.bcfood.org
- Facebook t.ly/b8eF5
- LinkedIn t.ly/7DBWb

Also, be sure to follow the new Facebook page for the DoubleTree by Hilton Battle Creek here: t.ly/dwCyH



President's Desk cont'd from page 1

The next day, Gov. Whitmer and the Michigan delegation traveled to Shiga Prefecture, Michigan's sister state. We toured Ohtsuka Sangyo Materials, an automotive seating company which recently set up a sales office in Novi. We also visited the Japan Center for Michigan Universities and met with college students from Michigan studying in Japan. We then attended a reception hosted by Shiga Prefecture and the Biwako Visitors Bureau.

On Sunday, we traveled back to Tokyo for the Midwest US-Japan Association Conference (MUJAC). Due to COVID-19, this high-level meeting of business and government leaders had not been held since 2019. Prior to the start of the conference, I attended a meeting with Gov. Whitmer and Yukari Inoue, Managing Director for Kellogg Japan. That evening, Amb. Emanuel hosted a reception at his official residence in Tokyo.

The theme for the 2023 conference was

"Shaping a Sustainable Future Together." The sessions kicked off on Monday morning, with remarks from the Minister for Foreign Affairs Kenji Yamada, Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ryuji Satomi, and Amb. Emanuel. Gov. Whitmer was the first governor to speak, followed by the governors of Shiga, Indiana, Saitama, Kansas, Gunma, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

On Tuesday, the conference began with a panel discussion highlighting foreign companies doing business in Japan and the USA. The panel included Hiroko Suzuki, President of Kyowa Sangyo in Takasaki, Battle Creek's sister city. After the conference, the BCU team participated in a networking event hosted by JETRO, along with several other Midwestern states.

After twelve days in Japan, I returned home while Robert and Ken stayed for more company meetings. They traveled to Takasaki and met with Vice Mayor Tatsuya Saito and the International Relations Department, where

they discussed the relationship between our two cities.

On October 2, the Kellogg Company officially split into two new entities. WK Kellogg Co will focus on cereal brands in the US, Canada, and Caribbean while Kellanova will include the snack portfolio as well as global cereal and plant-based products. WK Kellogg Co will be headquartered in Battle Creek while Kellanova will maintain dual campuses here and in Chicago, with its corporate headquarters located in Illinois. BCU looks forward to working with both companies.

Most recently, BCU Urban Planner Kris Martin and I visited Milwaukee with a group from the City of Battle Creek to learn about their river restoration projects. BCU staff also attended events hosted by the NAACP, the Burma Center, and Charitable Union.

On behalf of everyone at BCU, I want to wish you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year. See you in 2024!

BC Food cont'd from page 1

This grant will facilitate the establishment of the Food Innovation Hub, enabling BCFR to broaden its capacities and expand its reach to a broader spectrum of food businesses. This will be achieved by providing access to licensed food facilities, grants, and programming that cater to food startups and small food businesses.

"These 27 entrepreneurial hubs across the state will shore up our small business ecosystem, providing economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs and small businesses with the support they need to keep growing and expanding right here in Michigan," said Gov. Whitmer.

The SBSH program generated a high level of interest; over 80 applications were submitted, requesting more than \$275 million in funding. While state law requires 20% of the businesses

served by SBSH program to be minority-owned, an average of over 50% minority-owned businesses will be served among the selected applications. Resources available from the hubs will include one-on-one coaching, cohort-based learning and accelerators, pitch competitions, mentor matchmaking, networking events, access to capital, partner referrals, and statewide resource navigation.

The BCFR proposal was developed in collaboration with the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, JPG Resources, Michigan Small Business Development Center, Sprout BC, Grand Valley State University, and other key community stakeholders. In the coming weeks and months, staff will broaden our outreach to partners and community stakeholders to inform them how these funds can be used and to develop a process for the equitable deployment of these resources across Southwest Michigan.



ABOVE: Joe Sobieralski poses with Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Yukari Inoue, Managing Director for Kellogg Japan.

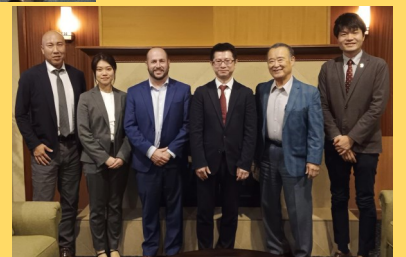
RIGHT: Michael Abdallah from Oakland County, Alan Weber from the Detroit Regional Partnership and Joe Sobieralski at 2023 MUJAC event in Tokyo.



BELOW: Joe Sobieralski and Ken Masumoto met with Motoyoshi Ohtsuka (center) and his colleagues from Ohtsuka Sangyo Materials in Battle Creek on October 19.



ABOVE: Ken Masumoto at Torishima Pump in Osaka.



Contact BCU

Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is focused on investment generation and job creation in Battle Creek, Michigan. BCU works closely with community partners to attract new companies to the Battle Creek region while also supporting the growth of existing companies. BCU was established in 1972 to develop the Fort Custer Industrial Park (FCIP), the largest industrial park in Michigan. Today the FCIP is home to nearly 90 companies, including 25 international organizations, which collectively employ more than 13,000 people. The FCIP covers more than 3,000 acres, with over 1,000 acres available for development, and offers convenient access to rail, air cargo, interstate and international trade highways as well as an international port of entry and a Foreign-Trade Zone.

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