

Monthly Newsletter

Executive Director Report

April 2025

Community Engagement

- **Regional:** As part of the Community Development Collaborative Grant, Michigan's Creative Coast is exploring the inclusion of Wexford and Missaukee counties on their website. This initiative would also involve identifying and featuring a "Northern Navigator" from the region to support local workforce recruitment efforts.
- **State:** Niki recently had the opportunity to attend the Michigan Rural Futures Summit in Lansing. The event featured presentations from key state agencies including the MEDC, EGLE, USDA, MSHDA, and MiO. Their insights provided a clearer understanding of statewide efforts to enhance rural vitality. A particularly impactful panel discussion emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships with these agencies to drive growth, resilience, and innovation across our region.
- **Local:** Niki attended small business roundup discussion with Governor Whitmer and area downtown Cadillac business owners as well as the ribbon cutting/ground breaking for the Cadillac Lofts Phase 2.





- Delaney, 20 Fathoms
- Beth and Lee, Chamber of Commerce
- Will, Office of Possibilities

Collaborative discussion about the creation of a remote work space in the area.

- Professional Development- Finished first course through University of Oklahoma- Economic Development Institute, Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development Strategies



- Attended the monthly meeting with Early Childhood professionals. Wearing blue in support of Child Abuse Prevention month!



Upcoming Events

- Morning Madness-Missaukee Chamber event 7am Lake City High School May 6th
- Building Michigan Communities Conference co-presenting at conference with Housing North May 14th
- MEDA- Emerging Leaders Conference May 8th
- AI in the workplace training- WMISD room 516 1-3pm May 22, 2025