

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BLAEDC President

Karlo Goerges, Pequot Tool and Mfg

Vice President

Janelle Riley, Syvantis Technologies

Secretary/Treasurer

Chuck Albrecht, Mid-Minnesota
Federal Credit Union

Paul Means, RiverWood Bank

Bruce Buxton, Widseth Smith Nolting
and Associates, Inc.

Kevin Close, Close Converse Properties

William Potvin, CliftonLarsonAllen

Mark Ronnei, Grand View Lodge

Tom Anderson, Minnesota Thermal Science

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Timothy Bergin, Retired

Conrad Bye, Communications
Investments, Inc.

Reggie Clow, Clow Stamping Company

Arnie Johnson, Johnson Enterprises, LLC

Jim Kraft, Frandsen Bank & Trust

Kevin Larson, Consolidated Telephone
Company

Paul Lindbloom, Retired

Terry McCollough, Retired

Clint Nelson, Positive Realty

John Newhouse, Retired

Angella Roby, Oakridge Woodview
Residential & Support Services

BLAEDC BOARD LIAISONS / GOV'T REPS

Rosemary Franzen and Tim Houle,
Crow Wing County

Sue Hilgart and Jim Thoreen,
City of Brainerd

Darrel Olson and Gordon Heitke,
City of Baxter

Matt Kilian, Brainerd Lakes Chamber

Eric Charpentier, CREDI

Our Mission

BLAEDC is a private non-profit 501c3 organization with a mission to expand business, build community, and grow jobs in Crow Wing County. We're funded by local units of government, businesses, community leaders and individuals who believe that together we create our own destiny and make a difference in our community.

Positioning Statement

In collaboration with investors and community stakeholders, BLAEDC exists to strengthen Crow Wing County's diverse economy, to compete in a global marketplace, and to position our region as Greater Minnesota's premier business location. We do this by connecting resources and creating a can-do environment while communicating the area's lifestyle, values and identity through one unified voice.

Our Values

Leadership, Teamwork, Optimism, Professionalism, Integrity, Passion, Confidentiality, Accountability, Persistence

A Snapshot of the Area's Economy

The Brainerd Lakes Area economic indicators are moving in the right direction and BLAEDC expects that trend to continue with positive messaging and an active economic development strategy.

	2012	2013	2012-2013 Differential	2014	2013-2014 Differential
Jobs	26,982	27,699	+ 717	28,233	+ 534
Companies	2,075	2,070	- 5	2,074	+ 4
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 646.00	\$ 654.00	+ \$8	\$ 678.00	+ \$24
Annual Unemployment Rate	7.6%	6.8%	-.8%	5.8%	- 1.0%

(2014 MN DEED Data Compared to 2012 and 2013)

2015 Project Accomplishments

BLAEDC's Accomplishments (1987-2015)

- 418 projects
- \$ 686.2 million in capital investments
- 4,817 jobs created

BLAEDC's 2015 Accomplishments

- 13 projects
- \$ 8.2 million in capital investments
- 49 jobs projected + 137 jobs retained



www.growbrainerdlakes.org • 218-828-0096 • 888-322-5232
224 West Washington Street, Brainerd MN 56401

THE BLAEDC TEAM - Sheila Haverkamp, Chris Robinson, and Megan Rehbein



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Paving the Way for Growth & Expansion



Paving the Way for Growth & Expansion

A Successful 2015

Crow Wing County's business sector is larger and stronger after 2015 as the result of a number of economic development successes. Brainerd's Phase IV industrial park has its first project. The Brainerd Industrial Center, former home of the Wausau paper mill, added new tenants. The technology and advanced manufacturing sectors, which are high priorities, continued to grow. In the middle of all this activity was BLAEDC and its strategies and initiatives for growing business and creating jobs. It was a busy year with major successes and heightened anticipation for what lies ahead in 2016.

Here is a sampling of the 2015 highlights:

- **FedEx Ground** built a 65,000-square-foot facility in the Brainerd Industrial Park, with 25 employees.
- **Avantech**, formerly Lakeland Mold, is building a 40,000-square-foot facility in the Baxter Industrial Park, where 94 employees will work.
- **Gullview Technologies** moved into 20,000 square feet of office space in Baxter, and hired 18 employees.
- **Mann Lake**, a Hackensack-based global leader in beekeeping supplies and equipment, expanded into 20,000 square feet in the Brainerd Industrial Center and hired five employees with plans for 20 more.
- **Royal Tire** in Brainerd built a new 6,200-square-foot building where 12 employees now work.



BLAEDC supports our area and its companies with a variety of services including:

- Positioning the Area for Growth by Creating a Positive Business Environment and a Can-Do Attitude
- Assisting and Coordinating Economic Development Business Projects
 - Area Information and Insights
 - Site Location and Financing
 - Technical and Business Planning
 - Government Resources and Processes

Core Strategies

Business Retention & Expansion – Supporting existing businesses is our highest priority. Our efforts continued with multiple site visits to explore growth opportunities, connect our companies to resources, and provide technical assistance. There were great success stories this year with new facilities constructed, equipment purchases, and expansions by our local companies.

Entrepreneurial – Another BLAEDC priority is supporting local entrepreneurs, which is key to the area's future. We were involved in new start-up ventures that continue to enjoy success.

Attraction – Recruiting new companies to the area is an important component of our strategies. Considerable resources were committed to this effort, which included hosting national site selectors and developing a special printed marketing section for the 2015 MN Business Climate Publication and its website.

Community Development – A strong and healthy community foundation is vital to successfully promoting private sector investment. We support the local communities, schools and others that help address issues or enhance community infrastructure.

Enhanced Economic Development Programs

BLAEDC's enhanced economic development programs continue to help enrich our efforts to strengthen local economies. In addition to the programs listed below, we also stayed focused on advanced manufacturing, home-based businesses, natural resources and tourism initiatives.

The EXECs Program – Our team of experienced business executives (called EXECs), who volunteer their time and expertise, continued to assist us with our initiatives. The EXECs engaged with local businesses and communities during tours, meetings, business visits and programs where they shared their insights and knowledge. They ended the year with a visioning and planning session on how to boost their programming to advance the area's economic vitality.

Tech Services Initiative – A number of tech-related initiatives by many local and regional partners resulted in the addition of new and expanding tech companies, continued investment in the area's broadband infrastructure and training programs to develop the workforce. Several new initiatives were started this year that will bring new excitement to this industry sector in the coming years.

BLAEDC's mission is a simple one. We exist to expand business, build community, and grow jobs in Crow Wing County. With focused economic development strategies and initiatives, and valuable partners that support our mission and our work, we continue to generate exposure for the area's business sector and attract new business in our core industries.

