

MEDIA RELEASE

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MSU HONORS 53 GROUPS AS BUILDERS OF COMMUNITY

By Susan Vela - Lansing State Journal (lsj.com)

Partners with college include school districts, GM, small businesses

More than 100 local leaders gathered Monday at Oldsmobile Park to celebrate Michigan State University's inaugural group of 53 MSU Community Builders.

Representing a cross section of industries, including education, transportation and engineering, the "community builders" were recognized for advancing the arts, economy and quality of life in mid-Michigan through partnerships with MSU.

General Motors Corp., Lansing School District and Accident Fund Insurance Company of America were some of the well-known names recognized as community builders.

There also were smaller companies such as IDV Solutions of Lansing and Okemos-based TechSmith Corp.

"It's a pleasure to be here on behalf of Team MSU," said MSU President Lou Anna Simon, who encouraged more innovative partnerships before the crowd of more than 100.

"It truly comes down to the power of we."

Those sitting and standing in the sunshine outside the city-owned baseball stadium included mayors Virg Bernero of Lansing and Vic Loomis of East Lansing.

Lansing School District Superintendent T.C. Wallace Jr. also was there.

"We just appreciate being a part of this community," Wallace said. "It's great to be recognized."

MSU officials said they collaborate with the region's largest public school system in nearly every aspect of public education, from developing new teacher training models to building partnerships between parents, teachers and administrators.

Though an exact figure was not available, Hiram Fitzgerald, MSU's associate provost for university outreach and engagement, said the university invests hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in its community-building partnerships annually.

At least 200 faculty members are involved in the Greater Lansing partnerships, he said.

BUILDERS RECOGNIZED

These were the 53 MSU Community Builders recognized Monday:

- Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America
- **AKT Peerless Environmental Services**
- Andrews Hooper & Pavlik PLC
- Auto-Owners Insurance
- C2AE
- Capital Area Michigan Works
- Capital Area Transportation Authority
- Capital Region Airport Authority
- Capital Region Community Foundation
- Capitol Bancorp Ltd.
- Christman Co.
- Clark Construction Co.
- Clinton County Economic Alliance
- Clinton Task Force on Employment
- Consumers Energy
- Dart Container Corp.
- Dart Foundation
- Dean Transportation
- Demmer Corp.
- Dewpoint Inc.
- East Lansing Public Schools
- Emergent BioSolutions Inc.
- Eyde Co.
- FinCor Holdings, Inc.
- General Motors Corp.
- Granger Construction Co.
- The Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau
- HSS Material Management Solutions
- IDV Solutions
- Ingham County Health Department
- Ingham Regional Medical Center
- Jackson National Life Insurance Co.
- John Henry Co.
- Joseph D. & Jerry L. Reid Foundation
- Lansing Board of Water & Light
- Lansing Community College
- Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Lansing School District
- Lansing State Journal
- Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting PC
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan Millers Mutual Insurance Co.
- Michigan State University Federal Credit Union
- National City Corp.
- Neogen Corp.
- Sparrow Health System
- Spartan Internet Consulting Corp.
- Spartan Motors Inc.
- SME Soil & Materials Engineers Inc.
- Symbiosis International
- TechSmith Corp.
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission