

ATTACHMENT A: Summary of Conclusions from the Wadley Donovan Labor Assessment

- The Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County region has a unique opportunity
 - It has some of the best workforce assets ever seen by WDG
 - Strong foundation for an excellent marketing message
 - Young, educated, skilled, strong basics
- Stronger business recruitment needed
 - No one knows that we exist
 - Need to support and implement ongoing marketing
- Key marketing advantages
 - Quality and cost of living balance
 - Labor availability
 - High skill levels
 - Experienced
 - Very good labor cost/benefit ratio
 - University of Michigan
- Image enhancement critical
 - Diversified high tech center (engineering, R&D, manufacturing)
 - Exciting center of creativity, career opportunities
- Need to attract more technology intensive operations in multiple industries
 - IT, manufacturing, R&D, dist., bio
 - Greater diversification from auto-related
 - Excellent foundation for attraction
- Transition issues in eastern sectors
 - Skills training must meet employer needs
 - Training wanted by many not-employed and they are willing to pay for part of it.
- Impact of Pfizer being accommodated
 - Overall private sector employment is down April 07-April 08, but new jobs are being created.
- Labor needs of changing auto industry must be determined and planning done
 - The automotive industry still is a significant employer in the county.
 - Employment is growing in research and development, e.g. Toyota.
- Employer focused training is essential
 - Continue and grow support and availability of training for existing employees as well as new hires.
- Continued strong collaboration & coordination needed
 - ETCS
 - Spark
 - UM, EMU, WCC, K-12
 - Employers, associations SHRM
- Identify and study your competitors
 - Visit
 - Learn from their experiences
- Need to recognize assets and challenges
- Full economic development assessment needed
 - Real estate
 - Targets
 - Infrastructure
 - Costs
- A lead agency must be identified going forward as well as a plan of action
 - Need to fight complacency