



MISSION: The Agribusiness Talent Council is an employer-led collaborative that seeks to expand the talent pool by promoting career pathways and opportunities in West Michigan's agribusiness industry.

# Council Structure

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

### EMPLOYER (Kent)

Teri Piper  
SpartanNash

### EMPLOYER (Kent)

Jamie Kober  
Riveridge Produce Mktg.

### EMPLOYER (Kent)

Ben Zorn  
Koeze Co.

### EMPLOYER (Kent)

Tim Vogelzang  
Revolution Farms

### EMPLOYER (Kent)

Lisa Brennan  
GTF Technologies

### WMW! COUNCIL LEAD

Karrie Brown

### EMPLOYER (Allegan)

Jessica VandenBosch  
Dykhuis Farms

### EMPLOYER (Montcalm/Ionia)

Stephanie Kempa  
Herbrucks Poultry

### EMPLOYER (Muskegon)

John Memmett  
Total Food Package

### EMPLOYER (Ottawa)

Dianne Cote  
Walters Gardens

### K-12 - ISD/CTC

Rich Okoniewski  
Allegan ISD

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Clarence Rudat  
MSU/MCC

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Amy Lebednick  
West Michigan Works!

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Becky Huttenga  
Ottawa County

# Council Strategies

<b>Promote the Industry</b>	<b>Connect to Resources</b>
<p>We are focused on promoting agribusiness as a great career pathway for all ages.</p>	<p>We create new and share existing beneficial resources for the agribusiness industry.</p>
<b>Train</b>	<b>Recruit and Retain</b>
<p>We connect businesses with resources to create their own talent by upskilling their current workforce.</p>	<p>We create and join projects that pull new talent into agribusiness and keep existing talent long term.</p>

# Key Accomplishments

## Promote the Industry

- Career AG-xploration
- Agribusiness Spotlight Week
- Career Exploration Workshops with MSU
- MiCareerQuest

## Recruit & Retain

- Agribusiness Job Fair with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

## Train

- Customized Leadership Training

## Connect to Resources

- Foods That Built West Michigan blog
- COVID-19 Best Practices Manual



# Looking Forward

- Promote the Industry: Agribusiness Spotlight Weeks
- Recruit/Retain: Ag-Jobs-4-All hiring fairs
- Train: Food Safety trainings with MDARD Specialty Crop Block Grant
- Connect to Resources: Grant expansion webinars



# AGRI BUSINESS

TALENT COUNCIL - WEST MICHIGAN