



Regional Growth Partnership  
BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH-PERFORMANCE ECONOMY

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Regional Growth Partnership Names Dean Monske as New President/CEO**

TOLEDO, Ohio – After a thorough four-month search process interviewing potential candidates from across the country, the Regional Growth Partnership has named a new president/CEO to lead the economic development organization.

Dean Monske, a Toledo native and former employee at the RGP, will take the helm, having been named as the fourth president in the history of the organization, which started in 1994.

Monske returns to the RGP after having led economic development efforts for the City of Toledo for the past year as deputy mayor for external relations. He replaces Steve Weathers, who left in October 2010 to take a position in Savannah, Ga.

“Dean was the clear-cut choice to run the RGP,” said David Waterman, chairman of the RGP board of directors. “We are certain Dean is the candidate to lead this organization, and the region, toward great success.”

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While at the City, Monske was directly responsible for Mayor Mike Bell's delegation to China in September 2010 to establish relationships with potential investors. That trip resulted in the recent announcement of Chinese investors' agreement to purchase The Docks, as well as a memorandum of understanding to purchase and develop the Marina District.

Prior to the City, Monske worked nearly four years at the RGP as vice president of business development, where he initiated a collective strategy with regional partners to facilitate attraction, expansion and retention opportunities. He was also responsible for implementing a direct outreach program to targeted site consultants and companies to further develop project leads.

Before the RGP, Monske served as executive director of the Oregon Economic Development Foundation, where he played a critical role in securing hundreds of new jobs and attracting millions of dollars in capital investment.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to lead this organization and help drive new initiatives geared toward generating major investment in this region," Monske said. "The RGP has so many resources which provide the necessary tools to fast track economic growth in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan."

According to Waterman, some of the critical requirements sought by the search committee included a strong knowledge of northwest Ohio, a commitment to work with other area agencies, and a solid resume of working in traditional economic development. He said the committee initially began with 36 candidates before eventually narrowing the list down to five finalists.

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“We consider this job as one of the best positions for economic development in the country, so it was important that we were diligent with our process in considering the best candidates, both locally and nationally,” Waterman said. “In the end, we determined Dean brings the most significant experience and skill set necessary to quickly move forward in advancing our economy.”

Monske, who will begin his duties at the RGP March 14, also received support from Toledo Mayor Michael Bell. “This is a great opportunity for Dean and a win for northwest Ohio - including Toledo,” said Mayor Bell. “I believe it will only strengthen our ability to collaborate with our economic development partners in the region. Dean has created a great deal of momentum in the city's business development. We will continue with his efforts and look forward to working with him and the RGP as an extension of the partnerships we have built over the last year.”

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national and international economic growth opportunities for northwest Ohio.

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