

Mackinac Policy Conference

New Member Perspective

GalaxE.Solutions on the Mackinac Policy Conference

By Tim Bryan



All of our new Michigan friends told us: "Join the Detroit Regional Chamber – and make sure you attend the Mackinac Policy Conference." New to the region, we knew little of the annual event. An initial look at the agenda was intriguing, including sessions to discuss keys to Michigan's economic recovery as well as dialogue on the rapidly evolving healthcare industry, a growing segment where we are prominent. We were not disappointed.

Overall, what struck us the most about the Conference was the access that it provided to key business and political leadership. From day one and the opening session, participants were interested in our "newcomer's" perspective on future possibilities and potential in Detroit and Michigan; why we chose this region and why others, we feel, should do the same. The opportunities for meaningful, two-way dialogue were virtually unlimited. We made a number of outstanding contacts.

In the days and months ahead, we look forward to continuing to get to know our new neighbors throughout the region and, together, making the case for expanding business in Detroit. Our success will be due in no small part to the Detroit Regional Chamber and the powerful Mackinac experience. ■

Tim Bryan is Chairman and CEO GalaxE.Solutions, Inc., a leading provider of software services and IT business support systems. Look for more on GalaxE.Solutions in the November issue of the *Detroiter*.

Pictured here are members of Fusion and Leadership Detroit alumni during the kickoff session at the 2010 Mackinac Policy Conference



Increased YP Involvement at this year's Conference

By Nina Coppola

Young professionals had an increased opportunity for participation and interaction with experienced professionals at this year's Mackinac Policy Conference, through a new partnership between Fusion and Leadership Detroit.

The two groups created a mentor-matching program designed to help young professionals navigate the Conference and build new connections with the region's business, civic and political leaders.

Fusion participant Hajj Flemings, author and speaker from The Flemings Group, greatly

benefited from his experience with the program. "My mentor was Deidre Bounds from Brogans & Partners, and we talked about various topics in which she brought a seasoned C-Suite perspective that I didn't see. Even after the conference, we had a chance to connect in Birmingham. [I] highly recommend to keep this idea going for next year."

Robert Dindoffer, attorney for Kerr, Russell and Weber in Detroit, also feels that he made worthwhile connections through meeting his mentor, Dan Mulhern. "I was incredibly lucky to be matched with Dan. He introduced me to a couple of folks who'd worked with him on his staff and are now

doing government services work. I've done some government services work on behalf of our firm's clients and foresee those connections paying off down the road."

On the Leadership Detroit side, President and CEO Michael Lesich of Excellis, Inc., enjoyed meeting young professionals involved with Fusion. "The meet and greet where we did get to mingle between alumni and Fusion members was a lot of fun, and it was good to make some new acquaintances." ■

Nina Coppola is a publications intern at the Detroit Regional Chamber.