



SFI SNAPSHOT

A publication of Saginaw Future Inc. highlighting good news in Saginaw County.

Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) is a private-public partnership created by Saginaw County businesses through their affiliation with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and by the city and county governments. The mission of SFI is to increase economic opportunity in our community by assisting in expansion and strengthening of existing businesses and attracting new businesses in the manufacturing and high-tech industries for all of Saginaw County

Saginaw Future Inc.
301 E. Genesee
Suite 300
Saginaw, MI 48607
Tel: 754-8222
Fax: 754-1715

www.saginawfuture.com

SAGINAW BEST FOR HIGH TECH/SERVICE FIRMS

A study released by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation found that Saginaw is an attractive business environment for locating high tech and service firms. The study conducted by Anderson Economic Group benchmarked Saginaw with competing economic development rivals in and outside the state. The Michigan areas evaluated included Ann Arbor, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Auburn Hills and Delta Township (Lansing). Other areas looked at included Birmingham (AL), Indianapolis, Columbus, Madison (WI), Fort Wayne, Georgetown (KY), Burlington (NC), Fairfax County (VA), and Toronto, Ontario.

Of all the areas, Saginaw's low business cost environment was found to provide the top return on equity for private service firms. Patrick L. Anderson, managing director of Anderson Economic group said in a MEDC press release that he was "...impressed with how competitive cities like Saginaw and Grand Rapids can be for service sector and high-tech firms."

JoAnn Crary, President of Saginaw Future Inc., cited recent expansions in the area of high tech service firms that provided further evidence of Saginaw's ability to prosper in the high tech/service oriented economy. Those expansions included:

- Concentric Network, one of the nation's fastest growing internet service providers, has grown tenfold and is constructing a state of the art new facility to house up to 800 employees.
- Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company is in the planning stages for a new facility to meet its growth. The company currently has over 500 employees with plans for the new facility to hold a projected 1000 employee operation.
- Hemlock Semiconductor, the world's largest producer of polycrystalline Silicon expanded three times investing \$201 million since 1995.

Crary further stated that, "This study confirms what we knew all along, that Saginaw is a great place to do business and will continue to be so even as we move to a high tech/service economy."