

The Class of 2007

Don Schjeldahl, an economic development site location specialist, said as much. The future, he said, is in regional planning and sharing resources. Perhaps a stronger regional identity, or maybe an organization to oversee regional economic development initiatives could be implemented, according to Schjeldahl.

The group also heard from regional business experts whose companies' strategies go much farther than local jurisdiction. They heard from educators, social scientists, historians, professors, elected officials, business leaders and others, and most of the discussion focused on a single theme...get your region working together as effectively as possible.

While there are many that understand that a regional approach in no way diminishes local efforts, in fact, it enhances them, there are now 32 people that have

The future...is in regional planning and sharing resources.

been preached the "official" regional gospel. And, while they've heard the word, it is now up to them to be among those spreading it. That can be the true success of VISION TRICOUNTY: A Regional Leadership Institute.

Implementation is now the key and these 32 grads can provide

the impetus to providing something critically important to our individual communities and region. Taking the information and running with it can be the hardest, but most crucial task.

If the class succeeds and moves forward, then the June 7th ceremony will have definitely been worthy of caps and gowns.

By the way, if you'd like to attend the graduation ceremony featuring keynote address from Dr. Eric Gilbertson, President of Saginaw Valley State University, and presentation of the second Regional Leadership Award, please contact the Chamber office at 839-9901.