



## Patti Gartland helps lead the region in an upward cycle of prosperity.

**P**atti Gartland's excitement about economic development and her hometown is infectious.

"The Greater St. Cloud region is a major center for health care, education, and many innovative industries, and we're fortunate to be right in the middle of it," says Gartland, a lifelong resident who has served as president of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation (GSDC) since 2013. "At the GSDC, we're in the business of growing business to make this region—already one of the best in the country—even better."

Formed in 2011, the GSDC is supported by more than 260 regional business and community leaders dedicated to the economic growth and development of central Minnesota's Sherburne, Stearns, and Benton counties. "The GSDC is a private, self-funded collaboration for the public good," explains Gartland. "Our members invest and participate to create an upward cycle of prosperity—a thriving community in which people want to live, work, and raise a family."

Gartland says the GSDC differs from traditional economic development organizations in that it focuses on what it calls its four strategic imperatives: to engage leaders, expand talent, grow business, and shape tomorrow. And it's working.

"Our imperatives guide us in developing a brighter future for the entire community," Gartland explains. "Some might say 'shaping tomorrow' should be left to others, but isn't the purpose of economic development to shape jobs

and opportunities for tomorrow? It's a key part of our overall efforts."

Gartland's experience is both extensive and diverse. She served as a planning director for the city of St. Cloud for 13 years and was later neighboring Sartell's city administrator. The Minnesota governor appointed her to the board of the influential Metropolitan Airports Commission for which she is currently vice chair. She's also a member of the St. Cloud State University School of Public Affairs Advisory Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation advisory committee, and other nonprofit boards.

Gartland is quick to add that she's just one piece of the development-success puzzle. "I am privileged to work alongside a great staff and the many community leaders who are improving everything from our business climate to regional transportation to employee health and wellness," she says. "Our strength is in our combined impact. By aligning our vision and resources, we're making the Greater St. Cloud region one of the best places to live and work in America."



We're making the Greater St. Cloud region one of the best places to live and work in America.

—Patti Gartland,  
President,  
Greater St. Cloud  
Development  
Corporation



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