

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HO-CHUNK NATION MAKES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN VISION 2017

SHAWANO, WI—The Ho-Chunk Nation recently demonstrated their support of *Shawano Country Vision 2017* with a platinum level investment. The commitment came in the form of a resolution passed by their Tribal Legislature on March 6, 2013. The resolution recognized the importance of Shawano Country Vision 2017 in helping businesses create jobs which will improve the quality of life for all Shawano County residents, including Ho-Chunk members. According to Hope Smith, Ho-Chunk Tribal Legislature Secretary, this is an important opportunity to create stronger partnerships. “It is an honor and privilege to work together in our efforts to promote businesses and thereby creating jobs for all the residents of Shawano County. When word gets out that we are working together we may be drawing businesses into Shawano County that will benefit us all,” said Smith.

As a platinum investor, the Ho-Chunk Tribe will have representation on the *Shawano Country Vision 2017* Executive Oversight Council. The Executive Oversight Council is responsible for ensuring that funds raised for the initiative are prioritized and administered in a manner that represents the best interests of all the program’s many investors. To date the capital campaign for *Shawano Country Vision 2017* has received cash pledges totaling \$965,000 from over 80 corporations, municipal and tribal government, local businesses, foundations and individuals. “This significant investment from the Ho-Chunk Nation pushes our total very close to the \$1 million mark. That is exciting. We welcome investments of any level to help

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us reach our goal of \$1.27 million so we can have the greatest impact on job creation with Vision 2017,” said Steve Sengstock, executive director, Shawano County Economic Progress Inc.

Executive Oversight Council Chairman Robert Nueske is pleased and excited to have Ho-Chunk Nation’s participation. “We thank the Ho-Chunk Nation for reaching out to partner with us on this effort. It is empowering for us all to be a part of this proactive initiative which will have a positive impact on our business and community,” said Nueske.

In addition to Ho-Chunk Nation representation, members of the Shawano Country Vision 2017 Executive Oversight Council include Chairman Robert Nueske, Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats; Vice-Chairman Charlie Harvey, Charlie’s County Market; Robert Chicks, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians; Dan Miller, Associated Bank; Dan Gast, CoVantage Credit Union; Glen Gilbert, CRI/Genex Cooperative Inc.; Mary White, Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats; Dorothy Erdmann, Shawano Medical Center, ThedaCare; Lee Crawford, TimberPro Inc.; Arlyn Tober, Shawano County; Jim Feeney, Wisconsin Film & Bag Inc.; Char Larsen, Premier Investment Services; Steve Sengstock, Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc. and Nancy Smith, Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce. The Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce and SCEPI will administer Shawano Country Vision 2017.

*Shawano Country Vision 2017* is a five-year economic development plan strategically designed to address various needs of area businesses and communities. The plan’s overall goal is to create 1,000 jobs paying an average of \$16 per hour, by implementing specific action steps in key areas, including business expansion, attraction and recruitment; tourism/retail development and community development. This plan was initiated two years ago by the board of directors of SCEPI and the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce to proactively tackle economic challenges including several plant closures, job losses, and lower than average per capita income. It will provide a blueprint for future growth and prosperity and a stronger economic climate for Shawano and Menominee Counties. *Shawano Country Vision 2017* is the first major fundraising campaign undertaken cooperatively to promote job growth in Shawano and Menominee Counties. For more information contact the Chamber at (715) 524-2139 or [chamber@shawano.com](mailto:chamber@shawano.com).

(Photo Caption: Shawano Country Vision 2017 representatives accepted the first installment of Ho-Chunk Nation’s investment at the Ho-Chunk Tribal Offices on March 8. Pictured (L-R) Greg Blackdeer, Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President.; Steve Sengstock, Shawano County Economic Progress, Inc.; Nancy Smith, Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce; Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Legislature Representatives Heather Cloud and Hope Smith; and Jim Webster, Ho-Chunk Nation Executive Director of Business.)