



[Bay Area Community Council](#)

112 Adams St.

Green Bay, WI 54301

Office@bayareacommunitycouncil.org

920-615-4350

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TOM SCHUMACHER

Mindset

Don't think Either/Or, Think Both/And – Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M.

Garry Golden, our keynote speaker at last month's Greater Green Bay: 2017 Envisioning the Future conference, used this quote to guide our thinking about the future. I'm not sure who originally said it, but several arrows point to Franciscan friar and inspirational speaker, Fr. Richard

Rohr.

Change

We are clearly in a period of change, perhaps the biggest since the 1960s and 1970s. It's too early to know the eventual outcome, but change is all around us. At the conference, 200 people considered the effects of change on our community. Looking through the lenses of change, we saw some things differently, but more often opened our eyes to what is right in front of us. The change factors we considered fit into the acronym STEEP'D--Social, Technology, Economic, Environmental, Political and Demographic.

We looked at how those changes affect six LIFE Study topics--the local economy, poverty, civic participation, diversity and inclusion, wellness and health, and education. Each change factor lens provided its own view of the LIFE Study topics. We gathered a lot of notes and recommended actions to improve the future of greater Green Bay.

I don't want to preempt the conference report, but can share some of the raw results. Here are a few of the top recommendations:

- Create an innovation fund for new entrepreneurial ventures
- Build and widely distribute a comprehensive educational program around diversity

- Develop a communitywide recruitment and retention strategy for diverse populations
- Create medical and mental health models patterned after the successful oral health partnership
- Market our knowledge of water clean-up and environmental innovations globally

That's just the tip of the idea iceberg that came out of the conference.

Choice

Today's headlines have a few recurring themes, including threats to our physical wellbeing and personal security, political gridlock and conspiracies, short and long term environmental change, and intolerance of differences in ethnicities and thought. Change is in the air and we feel discomfort in the winds of change. Our challenge is to get to the outcome of change while avoiding the widespread violence of the 1960s and 1970s, when college buildings were bombed, students were shot, and big portions of Los Angeles and Detroit were on fire.

Today, social and political engagement is on the rise, both Democrat and Republican parties cling to an unpopular status quo, and civil and ideological discourse is happening on campuses and in the streets. That bodes well for working through some things that have been simmering for a long time. I'm optimistic we will sort through the noise and discord to a renewed grounding in the common values, tolerance and goodwill we share. If you have doubt look at what happened in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, in which the technological changes that allow our president to stir the political and social discourse pot also enabled football player J.J. Watt to quickly raise \$27 million in hurricane relief.

Both/And

Much of what we see and hear is presented in an either/or context. Free speech, immigration, guns, healthcare, taxes and entitlements are a few. Our challenge is to find the both/and outcomes that require a little listening, tolerance, compromise and empathy.

I remain optimistic that our collective virtues will ultimately overcome our individual vices. I saw that in action when 200 of our best gathered to envision the path to a brighter future for greater Green Bay.

As always, please know that views expressed in my letters are mine and not those of the BACC organization. I hope you find them constructive and worthy of consideration.

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 14 BACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Directors received a thorough "walk through" of the September 29-30 "Envisioning the Future" summit from Lee Bouche and Tom Schumacher. Tom expressed great thanks to community partners Brown County United Way, Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, and Greater Green Bay Chamber for their staff time expertise and financial contributions. Tom also expressed appreciation to all who served in leadership roles in support of the conference. Several directors volunteered to serve as ushers and set up staff.

Directors from the Resource Development Committee updated members on successful fund raising for "Envisioning the Future" and current year operating expenses.

Directors unanimously approved proposed revised BACC by-laws, which enable the separation of the organization's secretary and treasurer positions.



**KNOW YOUR BACC DIRECTOR: DENNIS BUEHLER, PRESIDENT
& CEO OF GREATER GREEN BAY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Please describe something about yourself—where you were born, past and current professions and careers, how long you have lived in Brown County, and some of your favorite pass times.

Our family moved from Marshfield to Green Bay in 1985; I am a product of Lombardi and Southwest schools. While I geographically identified as a “west-side” kid, I have always thought of myself as a Green Bay guy with relationships, family, friends, community service, and experiences that stretch across both sides of the river! I hold a BFA from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee and a BFA from the Professional Theatre Training Program, a nationally renowned theatre conservatory program. This training led to professional positions at St. Norbert College, several producing theatres in Florida, and then eventually back to similar companies in Milwaukee.

For the last 16 years, I have lead prominent culture institutions, such as the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts in Brookfield, Milwaukee Ballet, and most recently, the Oregon Ballet Theatre in Portland, Oregon. Each one of those roles fit well with my local and national focus on building strategically minded healthy nonprofits with significant outreach into their respective communities. In January 2017, following the retirement of David Pamperin, I was appointed President and CEO of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. With more than 27 years of producing theatre, dance, AND deep commitments to education and other community cultural programs, the opportunity to impact my hometown is beyond exciting. I am able to apply years of nonprofit management, community outreach, and program development experience with a community that is incredibly close to my heart.

Beyond my professional life, my wife Treena (who is an artist), our two daughters, and I live in Brown County and the village of Ashwaubenon. We love to travel, spend time together at home, garden, and perform other outdoor activities. Treena and I both grew up in northeastern Wisconsin, and it should go without saying we bleed green and gold, so our excitement about being back in Packerland is off the charts.

Describe your relationship to the BACC—when did you start on the BACC, what are your hopes for the BACC, what personal gifts do you bring to the BACC mission?

As President and CEO of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, I joined the BACC Board as an ex-officio member in March 2017. I am excited to participate aside a diverse group of voices from throughout the county. As a longtime resident of Brown County, and now returning as a professional, I understand how important it is for organizations like the BACC to

provide a forum for respectful debate regarding the needs of our community. I personally hope I am able to provide not only my perspective as a community leader but as a resident on how we can best impact the quality of life in Brown County.

What do you like most about life in Brown County?

There is a quality of life and value in Brown County that is hard to find. We have lived and worked in a number of terrific communities across this great country. Each one of them added something wonderful to our life experience that I would not trade for a moment, but it is hard to think of a place that combines so much from its high level of education, to its quality of life, economic opportunities, accessibility, recreational activities and family experiences. There is no doubt we have things to work on as a community, but it is our Midwestern values and collaborative nature to support each other that makes me proud to say this is our home.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Recent articles, books, videos, Websites or venues of interest to BACC supporters and newsletter readers, recommend by BACC staff and directors.

Bollier, Jeff. “[Brown County eclipses \\$20 billion in value, among state’s fastest growing](#),” *Green Bay Press Gazette*, September 5, 2017.

Dettman-Bielefeldt, Tina. “[A new nonprofit makes special days brighter](#),” *Green Bay Press Gazette*, September 5, 2017.

Johnson, Shawn. “[Wisconsin Ranks 30th in Private Sector Jobs](#),” Wisconsin Public Radio, September 6, 2017.

Kaeding, Danielle. “[Income Inequality in Wisconsin at Highest Level since Great Depression](#),” Wisconsin Public Radio, August 30, 2017.

Mills, Shamane. “[Adolescent Obesity Rate Approaches Adult Levels In State](#),” Wisconsin Public Radio, September 29, 2017.