

The role of the Chamber of Commerce

Written by By Bill Lee, CEO Gallup Chamber of Commerce
Friday, 12 May 2017 02:02



In discussing economic development and the role of the Chamber of Commerce, it's good to have all the troops rally around the same definition so we're all on the same page.

Economic development generally refers to the sustained, concerted actions of policymakers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area.

The purpose of local economic development is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the "quality of place" for all. It is a process by which the public and private sector partner and work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and job creation.

The Gallup McKinley County Chamber strives to be the driving force for positive influence and action in business and leadership for Gallup-McKinley County. The Chamber represents and promotes the area's business economy, and encourages business and industrial investment, broadening the tax base which in turns builds capacity for the community. To business prospects and newcomers, the Chamber works to represent the community's pride and self-image.

Chambers of commerce are increasingly involved in non-commercial areas, such as education, human relations, environmental, cultural and governmental concerns. These challenges have caused Chambers of Commerce to become a viable force that seeks to pull people and organizations together creating successful collaboratives. Chambers of Commerce advocate on behalf of their members to influence national, state and local legislation affecting business.

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Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC), and the Chamber of Commerce partner frequently in likeminded goals for the region. For us, making the move from definition to action is the next step. Beneficial legislation, job creation and tourism are all areas where the Gallup-McKinley County Chamber of Commerce works with regional, state and national groups and organizations to help create jobs and promote our area.

Strong affiliations with the New Mexico Chamber Executives Association, New Mexico Hospitality Association, and GGEDC help us to accomplish our mission to advocate, promote, and be a strong voice for business. Building leadership through relationships that create a vibrant community where business can flourish. This includes helping all companies understand the chamber's relevance, opportunities and benefits that membership affords.

By Bill Lee, CEO

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