

# GLOBAL MIDWEST INITIATIVE

## Strategic Partners

### **CEOs** for Cities

CEOs for Cities is a national network of urban leaders from the civic, corporate, academic and philanthropic sectors inventing next practice for cities. CEOs for Cities works with its membership to build next generation cities that excel in the areas most critical to urban success: talent, connections, innovation, and distinctiveness. No other organization has urban leaders across multiple sectors engaged in shaping and applying its work.

CEOs for Cities brings to the Global Midwest Initiative an unparalleled cross-sector network of urban leaders, ground-breaking research and first-look concepts, all carefully designed to help cities make major gains on the factors that matter most to their success.

With its unique focus on identifying high-leverage strategies, CEOs for Cities has most recently pinpointed three powerful action areas for leading national change and producing new city-grown wealth. The organization's latest research, *City Dividends*, quantifies the value to cities and to the nation of achieving targeted gains in three areas: increasing college attainment rates by one percentage point (Talent Dividend), decreasing Vehicle Miles Traveled by one mile (Green Dividend), and decreasing metro-wide poverty rates by one percentage point (Opportunity Dividend). Even small gains at the local level aggregated across the top 50 metro areas will mean huge gains for the U.S. – \$166 billion each year – demonstrating once again that strong cities are the backbone of a strong America.



The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) is a consortium of twelve world-class American research universities, advancing their missions by sharing expertise, leveraging campus resources, and collaborating on innovative programs. For fifty years, the CIC has created new opportunities for member universities to work together toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, and impact. Member universities include: Indiana University, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Purdue University, the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The CIC brings to the Global Midwest Initiative perhaps the world's greatest concentration of academic research and innovative brainpower. The member universities of the CIC (Big Ten Athletic Conference plus the University of Chicago) under the direction of their Provosts, will bring to bear the Midwest's best and brightest minds focused on identifying practicable strategies to leverage the region's existing assets, understanding critical factors, and pointing the way to the most promising opportunities. The CIC's partnership with the Global Midwest Initiative's *Heartland Papers* monograph series will be an invaluable contribution.



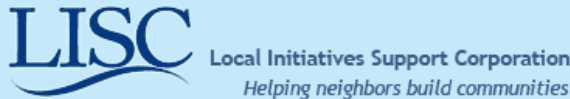
Farm Foundation serves as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems, and rural regions. The Farm Foundation does not lobby or advocate. Its 75-year reputation for objectivity allows it to bring together diverse stakeholders for discussions on issues and public policies. The Foundation addresses issues significant across the face of agriculture and rural America—regardless of geographic, livestock, or crop boundaries. The Farm Foundation initiates dialogue on timely and evolving issues, bringing all stakeholders together for productive discussions and providing comprehensive, objective information for business and public policy decision makers in agriculture, the food system, and rural communities.

Farm Foundation brings to the Global Midwest Initiative a 75-year history of focusing on large projects crucial to food production, agriculture, and rural development. The vision of the Farm Foundation and the Global Midwest concept intersect in a number of critical strategic areas, such as the infrastructure needs of rural regions and their communities. The Farm Foundation will also play a leadership role in understanding the rapidly emerging multi-faceted bio economy, including the bio-energy sector. The Farm Foundation brings understanding of the role of the Midwest's agriculture in the context of our global food system to the strategic dialogue.



Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights champions the human rights and improves the lives of men, women, and children who are threatened by poverty or danger. For more than 100 years, Heartland Alliance has been providing solutions—both through services and policy—that move individuals from crisis to stability and on to success. It works in areas of housing, health care, legal protections, and economic security, serving more than 100,000 people annually, helping them build better lives. In economic security, it helps provide skills to help individuals and families get ahead. With housing initiatives, it develops affordable housing that gives stability to individuals, families, and communities. In the area of health care, it offers medical, dental, mental health and addictions treatment services that help people survive and thrive. And lastly, with legal protections, it upholds justice for individuals in danger, particularly immigrants, refugees, and those fleeing violence.

The Heartland Alliance will lead the Global Midwest Initiative's efforts to ensure that broad-reaching economic growth strategies bridge the growing divide of income inequality and economic disadvantage in the region. The Heartland Alliance will convene workforce and anti-poverty policy groups from across the Midwest to articulate best practices and recommend policies to include low-income communities and low-skilled workers in the economic prosperity of the region. The Heartland Alliance is also creating its own Midwest Alliance on Poverty and Opportunity that will be a key component of the Global Midwest Initiative.



Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is dedicated to helping nonprofit community development organizations transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity -- good places to work, do business, and raise children. LISC mobilizes corporate, government and philanthropic support to provide local community development organizations with loans, grants, and equity investments; local, statewide, and national policy support; and technical and management assistance. LISC is a national organization with a community focus. Their program staff is based in 30 of America's most dynamic urban areas as well as close to 40 rural regions where community development is a recognized strategy for building strong and healthy regions.

As a strategic partner of the Global Midwest Initiative, LISC will focus on devising practicable strategies that will have a real impact on real lives in the Midwestern communities – both urban and rural – in which they are engaged. LISC will work with the GMI to connect its network of on-the-ground practitioners and its many partners in an effort to build healthy communities, enhancing their economic competitiveness and the workforce skills that both enable individual prosperity and grow the economy for all.



The Millennium Project is a laboratory where new paradigms of learning institutions can be designed, constructed, and studied. Rather than simply contemplating possibilities for the future through abstract study and debate, a more productive course may be to explore actively possible paths to the future by building prototypes of future learning institutions as working experiments. This is the mission of the Millennium Project, to provide an environment in which creative students and faculty can join with colleagues from beyond the campus to develop and test new paradigms of the university. In some ways, the Millennium Project is the analogue to a corporate R&D laboratory, an incubation center, where new paradigms concerning the fundamental missions of the university teaching, research, service, extension can be developed and tested. Rather than being simply a think-tank where ideas are generated and studied, the Millennium Project is a do-tank where ideas lead to the actual creation of working models or prototypes to explore possible futures of the university. Current projects include the Michigan Virtual Automotive College, the Michigan Virtual University, K-12 Projects, the State Technology Plan, the Michigan Knowledge and Learning Network, and the Global University. Like the famous Lockheed Skunkworks, every so often the hanger doors of the Millennium Project open, and something strange and provocative is wheeled out and flown away.

The Millennium Project is particularly important to the Global Midwest Initiative because education has become the most critical infrastructure for modern society. It seems likely that the pace and nature of change characterizing the higher education enterprise both in America and worldwide will be considerably beyond that which can be accommodated by business-as-usual evolution. While some colleges and universities may be able to maintain their current form and market niche, others will change beyond recognition. Still others will disappear entirely. New types of institutions perhaps even entirely new social structures for learning will evolve to meet educational needs, and the Millennium Project is there to provide insight on the future of education in the Midwest.