



## Quarterly Message from the President & CEO



Our year started strong with a number of events aimed at helping you grow your business and understand the current and projected economic landscape of Williamson County. Our team approached every event with thoughtfulness, precision and excellent execution. I am extremely proud of the work that they've put in to make our events a worthwhile investment for you.

Earlier this month we experienced the best [Outlook Williamson](#) economic summit to-date, welcoming more than 360 business leaders to The Factory where they received a behind-the-scenes perspective of how business recruitment and quality of life factors, like schools, fuel our local economic growth and prosperity. For those who missed it, check out our [2017 Williamson County Trends Report](#) and a [PowerPoint presentation](#) from the event.

But our community is not without its challenges.

Prosperity and traffic go hand-in-hand. It is up to each and every one of us to help solve this issue. Our state took a giant first step in the right direction with the [passage](#) of the IMPROVE Act last week by the Tennessee General Assembly. The measure is [headed](#) to Governor Haslam's desk and is expected to be signed into law in the coming weeks. The [IMPROVE Act](#) is a revenue-neutral bill that will raise the gas tax by 6 cents in order to fund over 962 backlog road projects across the state, included [25 projects](#) in Williamson County. Our entire state legislative delegation supported the bill and they deserve our gratitude. I encourage you to call or send an email and thank them for their

bold stance in solving a problem that is adversely affecting our quality of life.

While the road to infrastructure spending was not swift or easy, it proves how crucial it is to elect leaders who bring real solutions to real problems and can withstand healthy civil discourse. Strong leadership matters for our community, and it's why "**Leadership**" will be the theme for our programming over the next four months.

Starting tomorrow, May 2, Brentwood residents will have a say in the future direction of their city on Election Day. I strongly urge you to join the thousands who will [vote](#) for leaders who will continue to grow Brentwood in a thoughtful and responsible way.

The following day I invite you to [join me for lunch](#) at the Franklin Marriott to hear from the CEO of Fish Executive Leadership Group, Dr. Debra Fish, on the importance of strengths-based leadership. Dr. Fish is a dynamic facilitator and will be leading a strategy session in September on our Williamson Forward: Destination Denver trip. If you're a CEO and want to make an investment in the future of Williamson County, I encourage you to [register](#) for this trip.

Later this summer, we have a few high-energy, impactful events lined up. The [Business & Education Expo](#) takes place Tuesday, June 20 at The Factory, and will offer the community a chance to learn about the many unique businesses available in our backyard. With a record-breaking 700 attendees through the doors last year, you won't want to miss the same great fun in store.

On July 26, Mayor Rogers Anderson will give his eighth [State of the County Address](#), followed by the [State of the Schools Luncheon](#) on August 15. We know that our public and private schools are the drivers of our growing, thriving economy and it's in large part due to outstanding community leadership from our mayors, superintendents, headmasters and local elected officials. We're excited to host the event at Battle Ground Academy, where we'll welcome administrators, educators and students from Williamson County Schools, Franklin Special School District and independent schools to showcase the best talent and programs our county has to offer.

I hope you will join us at these signature events, or the many [networking and professional development events](#) we have planned throughout the year, to gain a better understanding of our county's economic landscape and help us solve some of our biggest challenges.

Thank you for your investment in the Williamson County community through your investment in Williamson, Inc.

Best wishes,

Matt Largen  
President & CEO  
Williamson, Inc.