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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2016

### **Two Government Entities Recognized for Supporting Entrepreneurs**

Egelston Township and The City of Muskegon were both recognized with 2016 GEE! (Governments Encouraging Entrepreneurs) Awards for going above and beyond to support the local business community.

Businesses choose to locate and grow more quickly in political environments that are cooperative, consistent and flexible. For this reason, the GEE! Award is given annually by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee to recognize the individuals and governmental entities supporting entrepreneurs and building an environment for business success.

The winners were recognized during a Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Business for Breakfast on October 28, 2016. These municipalities are encouraged to place the award in a prominent location and promote on their community website so residents know they are actively working to support business growth.

#### **ABOUT THE WINNERS:**

**Egelston Township: John Holter, Mark Cleveland and Jeff Ream.** Egelston Township was instrumental in the growth of KL Outdoor. The township's proactive approach to development allowed the company to expand operations and worked feverishly within a condensed timeline to get proper zoning and site plan approvals which were necessary for the expansion. John, Mark and Jeff worked with the company to understand their needs to jointly come to an agreement on expansion plan.

**The City of Muskegon.** The City of Muskegon's team directed by Cathy Brubaker-Clarke have worked with Pure Muskegon during the last three years in overcoming obstacles that ultimately led to the purchase of the Melching, former, Sappi Property. This work included the application of a Brownfield Development Grant to afford the safe removal of the remaining stacks, current and potential zoning work on the property and working with Pure Muskegon on a long term solution to the railroad right of way.

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#### **ABOUT THE CHAMBER**

The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce is the premier business membership organization on the lakeshore representing approximately 1,150 businesses and organizations. The Muskegon Chamber represents businesses of every size and type all over West Michigan. The Chamber is celebrating more than 120 years in operation working to sustain an environment for business success through community leadership, promotion, inclusive business advocacy and valued member services. The Muskegon Chamber is a four-time award winning Chamber, being named Chamber of the Year for the State of Michigan in 2006, 2010, 2012 and 2015 by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals.