

FREMONT - SANDUSKY COUNTY

RECOGNIZED AS THE 39TH TOP MICROPOLITAN REGION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATION

2015



Fremont-Sandusky County, Ohio - Five cities within the 17-county Northwest Ohio footprint were ranked among the best nationally based on number of business development projects. A national economic development publication, **Site Selection** magazine, recently announced that Fremont-Sandusky County has been recognized as one of the top 50 micropolitan regions in the country for business investment and expansion. **Fremont-Sandusky County tied for the 39th ranking with Tiffin-Seneca County.** Other Northwest Ohio counties recognized included top ranking Findlay-Hancock County in the #1 spot and Defiance-Defiance County finishing at #73.

According to Kay E. Reiter, Executive Director for Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation, “In the **2015 year over \$295M+ of announced capital investment projects** were reported from the Sandusky County business community that includes the City of Bellevue which is located in four (4) counties: Erie, Huron, Seneca and Sandusky.” According to **Site Selection** magazine officials, the qualifying projects were located in the cities of Bellevue, Clyde and Fremont.

The U.S. Census Bureau defines a **micropolitan community** as a “**rural county whose largest city does not exceed a population of 50,000.**” According to the Census Bureau, there are 576 micropolitan communities in the United States. **Site Selection** magazine's standard for a qualified project is a project with a dollar investment greater than \$1 million for building and equipment, square footage of at least 20,000 in new/expanding construction or the addition of 50 new jobs. Fremont-Sandusky County places in the top 50 percent of micropolitan communities nationwide.

Gary Thompson, chief operation officer of the Toledo-based Regional Growth Partnership, said recognition serves as important validation that Ohio continues to offer what developers are looking for. “**That magazine really is the Bible of the economic development world. All of the top-tier national consultants read that so it’s really nice and really positive to have your community represented in that magazine in a positive way. It makes an impression on a lot of important people.**”

John Minor, president and chief investment officer of JobsOhio, echoed Mr. Thompson in saying that the awards are proof of the state’s progress. “**Our state’s consistency, collaboration with our regional network partners and continued growth demonstrates that Ohio is leading the nation in an economic resurgence.**”

The entire story is available by visiting www.siteselection.com. For more information about locating or expanding in Sandusky County, please contact the office of Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation at 419.332.2882 or email director@sanduskycountyedc.org.

In 2015, Ohio produced more Top 100 Micropolitans than any other state – 19. Kentucky came in second with 9.

