RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, as a region, we share the wealth of the natural and human resources of the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, as a region, we share a common economic history, initially agriculture-based, followed by a prosperous era of manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, as a region, we share the distinction of a common history of cultural and social change which had enriched the lives of our citizens and beyond; and

WHEREAS, as a region, we now share the impact of the changing economic climate, a future less dependent upon manufacturing, more characterized as skill-intensive and knowledge driven; and

WHEREAS business and industry, public policy, and higher education each has a critical role in addressing the issues of the region's economic transition; and

WHEREAS our leaders in business, government, and higher education have been advocating within their own organizations for initiatives which will build the region's economy; and

WHEREAS the most responsible, successful, and sustainable solutions to the region's economic challenges will require an integration of the assets of business and industry, public policy and higher education.

WE HEREBY RESOLVE to actively explore ways to work collaboratively on solutions, bringing our best from business and industry, public policy and higher education, to contribute to a stronger economic future for the region.

SIGNED this twenty-seventh day of June, 2008.