



PRESS RELEASE

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Endowment Fund Supports SLO County's Economic Future *Economic Vitality Corporation seeks to ensure economic stability*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF. – The Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC) of San Luis Obispo County has taken steps to secure the county's economic future by setting up an Endowment Fund at the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation. In its initial fundraising effort, the EVC has quickly received gift commitments totaling approximately \$100,000.

"The Endowment Fund provides an opportunity to make an investment in our community for long-term benefits and to achieve greater economic sustainability," said EVC President and CEO Michael Manchak.

Compass Health CEO, Darren Smith, a member of the EVC Board of Directors, became the first donor to invest in the endowment. "We wanted to create a permanent way to keep San Luis Obispo County self-sufficient economically, and to maintain a sustainable economy for today and tomorrow," Smith said. "The track record of the EVC makes this an excellent way to accomplish just that."

The Endowment Fund supports the EVC, a countywide nonprofit organization (operating since 1994) that has helped thousands of locals create jobs, which benefits the community. The EVC Endowment will help create economic sustainability and self-sufficiency in San Luis Obispo County by creating jobs, increasing investment in the community, and promoting the start-up, growth, and attraction of businesses for a more vital and balanced economy.

The goal for the EVC Endowment Fund is to continue its growth, whereby interest made from the fund will be used to assist in the creation of jobs and further investments in the community. The Endowment Fund will also help grow businesses, which in turn, invest back into the community.

Ten members of the EVC Founders' Circle have committed to investing \$10,000 each. These members include:

1. Steven Harding, RABOBANK, N.A.
2. Noreen Martin, MARTIN RESORTS
3. Ty & Trudie Safreno, TRUST AUTOMATION
4. Eric Schwefler, CALIBER ACCOUNTING & TAX, LLP
5. Eric Schwefler, AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE BANK and PACIFIC WESTERN BANK
6. Darren Smith, COMPASS HEALTH
7. Tim Williams, DIGITAL WEST
8. John King, BOUTIQUE HOTEL COLLECTION
9. Brad Goodwin, WELLS FARGO ADVISORS
10. HIND FOUNDATION

The fund will accept donations in any amount. They include opportunities to support the fund as follows:

- The Leaders' Circle, in which 25 people and/or businesses will commit \$5,000 each, or \$1,250 per year for four years.
- The Business Circle, in which 50 people and/or businesses will commit \$2,500 each, or \$625 per year for four years.

Members of the community who are interested in donating can call Michael Manchak at (805) 788-2013 or e-mail him at mmanchak@sloevc.org for more information.

ABOUT -- Economic Vitality Corporation

The Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit economic development organization that provides business resources to help start and grow businesses throughout San Luis Obispo County. The EVC stimulates the local economy by helping generate jobs, increase investment in the community and promote the start-up, growth and attraction of business opportunities.

www.sloevc.org (805) 788-2012

ABOUT -- San Luis Obispo Community Foundation

In 1998, the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation began its mission to provide the local community with an enduring form of support. However, the inspiration and first steps towards the organization began years earlier, with a group of likeminded individuals, looking to create a positive change in the County. Coalescing their ideas, they established the blueprint for an organization that would prosper through helping others prosper. With that concept, the Community Foundation was born. <http://www.slocf.org/about.php>

Link for donations to EVC Endowment: https://www.slocf.org/fund_donation.php?id=160