Background

The Economic Council of Martin County is leading an effort to affect community change and improve the system of taking care of our youth. Businesses are complaining that they cannot find qualified people to hire. More and more not-for-profits are trying to address the issue with various levels of collaboration and success. The Together Martin project seeks to create collaboration throughout the community, working toward a shared goal that supports our youth as they move from cradle to career.

Talent supply is the number one economic development issue today. A large share of local taxes are used to support education. Combined with the “brain drain” of our graduating students leaving the community, this results in a lower than desirable return on the educational investment. The Together Martin initiative seeks to bring the varied sectors and age groups of the Martin community together to align around the common goal of addressing this problem.

Ted Astolfi, CEO of the Economic Council of Martin County since 2016, will provide an overview of the Together Martin initiative. Ted was the Executive Director of the Business Development Board (BDB) of Martin County from 1993 to 2006, after starting at the Economic Council in 1991 as Research Analyst and working to establish the BDB. During his tenure with the BDB, Mr. Astolfi served on many local, regional and state-wide organizations and earned awards and recognition for his work in economic development. After leaving the BDB, he worked for a private equity firm in Pennsylvania before going on to work as a consultant for individual land owners, businesses, and the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (FMEP). He was eventually hired by the FMEP as Deputy Director in 2012. Mr. Astolfi serves on the TCRPC CEDS Committee, serving as Chair in 2019. He is a graduate of Martin County High School and has a B.A. in Economics from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.
Recommendation

For information only.

Council Action – March 13, 2020

Council received a PowerPoint presentation from Ted Astolfi, CEO, Economic Council of Martin County (copy attached).