

## Columbia, Missouri Intercity Leadership Visit, November 8-11, 2015

### Delegate Quotes

“It became evident while attending the InterCity Leadership Visit to Columbus, MO that “while taking time to evaluate a similar community and its offerings, that I was being exposed to a higher level of consciousness relative to the status of our wonderful community that we live in.” We go about our everyday tasks and duties as local business person, often times so busy being busy we forget to stop and listen.

The ICLV trip allowed me to stop, look, and listen to what another similar community is doing to make their quality of life and offerings attractive to others. Being a local business man and constantly recruiting talent, the mentality of our City always try to "reinvent themselves" is refreshing and prideful and I believe is one reason we are seeing such huge strides in quality of life improvements in our constantly growing community.

It seems like we are getting noticed across the State for the progressive leadership within our community.

I for one, am proud to be a part of it."

- Corey Brunton, AIA, CID | Principal / CEO / Project Architect, Brunton Architects & Engineers

“It was incredible to experience the successes and challenges of another strong community through the eyes of their leadership. We identified a variety of ideas to help strengthen our community and continue to move it forward, but also realized the numerous successes we already enjoy and should celebrate!”

- Ben Ellingson | Partner, Eide Bailly

“We have a lot to be proud of in the Greater Mankato region but we can always be seeking ways to grow and get better. One key takeaway for me was the ongoing challenge and importance of social equity in our communities. The timing of our visit to Columbia put an exclamation point on the importance of this issue. [However], the most important takeaway for me is to see the incredible commitment of 70 plus community leaders from the region who are engaged and willing to take time out of their busy schedules to come together and find ways to partner in support of the continued growth and success of the Greater Mankato Region. The content of our meetings and tours was excellent but the real power and fun was the networking of a such large group of engaged community leaders.”

- Richard Grace | Chief Administrative Officer, Mayo Clinic Health System

“Being new to Greater Mankato Growth and the InterCity Leadership visit, I found the Columbia tour helpful and informative as we continue to grow and prosper as a thriving city. It’s important that we learn from other communities to ensure that we have the most robust programs, services and collaboration from all sectors of our community.

- *Deb Newman | Executive Director, Partners for Affordable Housing*

“Being a part of the leadership delegation for GMG’s 2015 InterCity Leadership Visit to Columbia, Missouri far exceeded my wildest expectations. I found the opportunity to meet and have deep conversations with others on our delegation both personally enjoyable and professionally relevant as a still relatively new leader in the Greater Mankato community. I also came home recognizing that the time is prime and now for Minnesota State University, Mankato to take a lead and vital role in achieving even greater levels of positive impact and growth in our region.”

- *Marilyn Wells | Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Minnesota State University, Mankato*

“The ICLV trip to Columbia, MO was extremely valuable for the attendees as well as the community of Mankato. We received affirmation that Mankato is doing very well as a community while also learning of some areas of improvement. The conversation and relationship building between the attendees throughout the trip was incredible. I feel extremely fortunate to have been a part of the ICLV delegation and for living in such a supportive community. The investment into the ICLV trip proves we are a progressive community that strives for growth and improvement.”

- *Dan White | President, Office Space Design*