

**Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**  
**Fourth Annual Summit on Regional Competitiveness**  
**November 17, 2016**

**Greeting and Welcome**

KELLY O'BRIEN: I would like to begin this morning by expressing my gratitude to the Federal Reserve Bank for partnering with the Alliance to host this fourth summit. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, it is truly a great privilege to work with so many of the wonderful professionals here at the Bank.

There are a lot of people involved, and so I apologize up front if I fail to mention every name, but I do want to give a few special shout-outs to Jerry Boyle, Mary Jo Cannistra, Brian Walker, Laura LeBarara (phonetic), Brit Oliver (phonetic), Rhonda Bronaman, and Alicia Williams. A round of applause for the talented staff.

I'm thankful for the many sponsors and financial supporters of the Alliance. Without the generous contributions from ArcelorMittal, Crown, Bryan Cave, Barnes & Thornburg, A.O. Smith, John Buck, and so many, many more, we wouldn't be here today.

I'm thankful to my team, Shalora Jasper, in particular. This is her first summit and she has done an

amazing job making today happen. Our in-house economist, Morton Marcus, your number crunching is very eye-opening. The working team managers, Anne Edmunds and Steve Schlickman, thank you for your commitment, and the long hours you devote to advancing progress and making the Alliance platform meaningful.

Thank you to Debbie Ford for the in-kind contributions provided by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and for collaborating with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to create the funding for the newest Alliance team member, Dylan Waldhuetter (phonetic). He is here today and we're thrilled to have him part of the team. I'm thankful to each member of the Board, most of whom are here today. Will our board members please stand?

Today's program focuses on creating an action agenda for the Mega Region. I'm going to ask you for a favor. A favor I'm actually going to start to call in at five o'clock today. Please listen carefully to what you hear from the speakers. Please think about the work that you are doing, and the work being done in other channels around you. And you tell us -- you tell us what the region's action agenda should be for 2017.

There are handouts on each table, and I hope you'll fill these out. Fill these out. We will be collecting them, and later today we're going to ask a few people to stand up and share your big ideas.

So today is about three things: listen and learn from the program speakers, share your thoughts on how we can better grow our regional economy, and network, meet new people. There are people here that maybe you haven't seen since last year, or people that you've never met. I'm going to pause for a moment and ask everybody to introduce yourselves around the table. Please, introduce yourselves to your tablemates. Now, that was easy. Great.

So now, not only do we want to make sure that you are able to have a conversation with the people at your table, but we want to make sure that you're able to meet people on the other side of the room. And guess what? It's easier than ever.

Everybody here today received an e-mail after registering to download the conference app. Now I will admit, I'm one of those people that generally don't open those e-mails, don't know how to download an app. Although I usually don't open them, I am really encouraging everybody here to open them because it's a very, very

valuable app today. Not only will it provide today's agenda and the speaker bios, but there's a really cool feature that allows you to private message with anybody else that has registered to attend this conference. Let me show you.

(Conference app instructional video is played)

So isn't that exciting? You can look through the roster of who's in the room, and even if it's somebody that you've never met but it's somebody that you'd like to meet, you're able to send them a message, and suggest connecting during the break, or sitting together at lunch.

We want to make sure that real networking happens. And in that vein, today ideas will be sparked, new collaborations will be revealed. I'm excited about #makingoureconomystrong. So without further ado, I'm going to hand things off to our summit emcee, Lakeshore Chamber Executive Director, and Alliance board member, Dave Ryan.

Let's get this program started.

DAVE RYAN: Thank you, Kelly, and good morning everyone. I'm going to say this one time, GO CUBBIES. In today's *Sun-Times* the Cubs have reached out to Steve Bartman. Now this is a turnaround for everybody and

probably why there's such a euphoria in the City of Chicago today, and that's coming from a White Sox fan, please.

I was honored last year to be appointed to the Alliance for the Regional Development, Board of Directors. It is a pleasure to be here today at the Fourth Annual Summit on Regional Competitiveness.

As one of the founders of this organization, Kelly asked a group of attendees at the first summit for ideas, and I asked, from a budget standpoint, that her organization be lean and mean. And she has managed to keep her organization very streamlined.

What I did not intend for her to do is to hire my ace administrative assistant out from under us at the Lakeshore Chamber. But she has an eye for talent and that's how Shalora Jasper came here today, and Shalora greeted you today as you signed in. By the way, attendee messaging, I used to call Shalora. I would call her and say, "Shalora, how do we do this?" So I'm not using it today until I find Shalora.

We've got a full agenda for today, so let's get started.

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