

**TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Report of County Activities (November 2006)**  
**Linking County/Local Government for Efficient Public Services**

- Rebuilding the local economy is critical – it continues as a priority of the community-local leaders – Sirolli Model of entrepreneurship is being pursued by a county task force with over \$40,000 raised to date from individuals and entities in the community, but additional funds are needed – a Rural Business Enterprise Grant and other grant-foundation funding is being requested – Sirolli approach hires an enterprise facilitator who works with a board of management, individuals and current businesses-industries to spur economic growth-employment – has been successful in other parts of the country-world
- From 2003 to 2005, the state lost more than 100,000 automotive manufacturing jobs - U of M economists project the worst is not over - unemployment rates are anticipated to go even higher in 2007 and 2008 - Dr. George Fulton explained that the Big Three market share will continue to decline in 2007 and 2008 – projections are a loss of more than 40,000 automotive manufacturing jobs in 2006, 30,000 in 2007 and 24,000 in 2008 – a six year loss of nearly 200,000 automotive manufacturing jobs
- Economic statistics that add to the challenges of this area include:
  1. Compared to the state and nation, the purchasing power of county residents is diminishing - in 2003, county median household income was \$39,862 compared to \$46,291 for the state and \$43,318 for the nation - county median household income was 14% less than the state and 8% less than the nation - even more concerning is county median family income growth from 1998 to 2003 was 5.7% compared to 10.3% for the state and 11.4% for the nation
  2. In 1980, the median age in the county was 28.1 which was younger than the state and nation – by 2000, county median age became older than both the state and nation as follows: county 37.0, state 35.5 and nation 35.3 - county population is not growing - estimates for 2000 to 2005 show the nation's population grew by 5.3%, the state's population grew by 1.8% while county growth was a scant .3%.
  3. Unemployment is higher in the county than the state and nation - closure of area businesses-industries has had a crippling impact – the county has consistently had a higher unemployment rate than the state and nation - in 2005, the county unemployment rate was 7.9% compared to 6.8% for the state and 5.1% for the nation -recent data shows that in March of 2006 county unemployment spiked at 9.9%, while the state was 7.5% and the nation was at 4.8%
  4. Number of building permits issued in the county has been declining - 980 building permits were issued from January to April of 2006 compared to 1,153 permits for the same period of 2005 - this is a decline of 173 permits or 18% - Census data indicates the number of new private housing units authorized by permit in the county declined from 202 in the 2002 to 116 in 2004 - valuation of new housing construction declined from \$15,600,000 in 2002 to \$15,271,000 in 2004.
  5. The county has consistently lagged below the state and nation in educational

attainment - only 10.6% of Tuscola County residents that were 25 or older in the year 2000 had attained a bachelor's degree which is strikingly below the 21.8% for the state and 24.4% for the nation.

Prepared by: Michael R. Hoagland, Tuscola County Controller/Administrator 989-672-3700