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July 2, 2014

The Four County Labour Market Planning Board, in recognizing the need to develop partnerships for a healthy and sustainable labour market, supports Georgian College's campus regrowth to become Central Canada's Marine Centre of Excellence.

Engaging the education sector with expansion of postsecondary services within the County of Grey is an economic development strategy that will keep the county progressing into the future. By expanding marine education opportunities at the Owen Sound Campus, the program will provide more learning opportunities for all, and retain and attract young adults to the area. This expansion will also continue to support the research currently being undertaken by Huron County for Careers on the Water. The expansion of marine training will support the recommendations coming out of that research and provide a good foundation for Grey County as an Intelligent Community.

A recent Skills Gap Study undertaken by the Planning Board recommends the development of partnerships between employers, educators and community partners to involve everyone in strategies for workforce development. This initiative by the Owen Sound Campus of Georgian College is an ideal opportunity for community partnerships to fashion a unique vision in the sustainability and growth of the economy in Grey County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gemma Mendez-Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gemma Mendez-Smith, Executive Director

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