

# GSEC Chair's Retreat

## Discussion Summary

### **POWERING THE FUTURE: STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR EV BATTERY & SEMICONDUCTOR ADVANCEMENT IN GREATER SACRAMENTO**

**Panelists:** Robert Hess, Vice Chairman, Newmark / Harminder Sehmi, CFO, Blaize, Inc. / Orville Thomas, CEO, Cal EPIC | **Moderated by** Siri Pulipati, Mayor, City of Rancho Cordova

- Greater Sacramento region has the right energy, aptitude and attitude to secure quality investments.
- Energy costs, sites, permitting, talent and R&D infrastructure are critical site selection factors.
- AI is largely in the data center today and the current set of AI tools will augment productivity.
- AI will evolve to be multimodal, growing to impact smart cities, safety, defense, etc.
- Steadfast policy and business leadership (e.g., SMUD zero carbon goals) support EV opportunities.
- Greater Sacramento can lead in these industries by leveraging our strengths in R&D.
- Companies will be attracted to highly skilled talent; investing in education is key.

### **BUILDING THE FUTURE: YUBA-SUTTER'S PLAN FOR GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY**

**Panelists:** Mark BIRTHA, President, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento Fire Mountain / Gary Bradford, Supervisor, Yuba County / Dan Flores, Supervisor, Sutter County / Jeremiah Smith, President, First Northern Bank | **Moderated by** Eric Stevens, President & CEO, Adventist Health

- Yuba-Sutter have been proactively planning for quality growth since the early 1990s.
- Yes to Yuba concierge approach; streamlining permitting and troubleshooting for development.
- Future growth opportunities attract amenities and tradable and service sector jobs.
- Housing, Beale AFB, aerospace jobs, etc. support localization of jobs.
- GSEC partnership with its board leadership, marketing and expertise has been a force multiplier.
- Conscientious commitment to accommodating growth that protects resources and quality of life.
- Unique assets include Yuba Water Authority, Sports and Entertainment Zone, Beale, etc.
- Addressing infrastructure is an imperative; innovations like the Yuba Applied Research Center will help.
- Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and Enterprise Rancheria betting big on sports and entertainment zone.

## **OPPORTUNITIES SACRAMENTO: SHAPING PATHS TO PROSPERITY**

**Panelists:** Adonai Mack, CEO, Child Action, Inc. / Kimberly Menzel, Senior Vice President & Area Manager, Kaiser Permanente / Faye Nabhani, President & CEO, SAFE Credit Union / Siri Nelson, President & CEO, Marshall | **Moderated by** Brian King, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College

- Despite Greater Sacramento's growing economy, there are areas of entrenched poverty.
- Rent could be as much as 30-50% of income, childcare another third for poor working parents.
- Opportunities Sacramento can leverage progress made with the Digital Upskill program.
- The program would provide training, childcare subsidies, technology and an internship commitment.
- Pilot program will identify employers, training opportunities, develop measurable outcomes.
- Working parents in neighborhoods like Del Paso Heights would be engaged.
- Training would be industry-specific; in-house, private or through community college partnerships.
- 70% of future jobs will require more than high school but less than a bachelor's degree.
- Engagement will need to measure impact longitudinally to determine effectiveness of the program.

## **A DECADE OF DETERMINATION: IGNITING OPPORTUNITY AND DEFINING TOMORROW**

**Barry Broome, President & CEO, GSEC**

- Board leadership has differentiated Greater Sacramento's performance compared to peers.
- The market is aligned and has a culture that moves together with intentionality.
- Key factors for success: public-private partnership, universities driving economy, industries of the future.
- Higher education generates research, supports commercialization, and trains the workforce.
- While the state stagnates, Greater Sacramento leads – 1<sup>st</sup> in California in job growth, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the West.
- We need to level up:
  - Should GSEC lead a coalition on state policy?
  - Launch Opportunities Sacramento.
  - Implement playbooks to catalyze industry growth (EV/semi, life sciences, energy).
  - Position market for the next MLB expansion team in 2028.
  - Elevating the region into the national conversation leveraging our new brand and wins.

## REIMAGINING DOWNTOWN WITH SACRAMENTO STATE

Luke Wood, President, Sacramento State

- Sacramento State University is a regional economic and workforce development engine.
- While many CSU institutions' enrollment is down, Sacramento State is welcoming its largest class.
- An impending enrollment cliff requires institutions to reimagine themselves.
- Sacramento State's resilience will grow with the following future initiatives:
  - Becoming an athletic powerhouse.
  - Economic impact through a regional presence.
  - Advancing micro colleges.
  - A national university with a regional commitment, leveraging national marketing.
  - High quality student experiences and support
    - Highest four- and six-year graduation rates in history.
    - Reclassification to Carnegie R2 research status.
    - New degrees in AI; first CSU school in California to launch AI degree.
    - Key hires in athletics, move to FBS, etc.
    - Capitol Mall project.
    - Wilton Rancheria partnership.
- How the GSEC board can help athletics program development:
  - Tell youth to stay local, grow our own.
  - Philanthropic support for recruitment/retention of athletes.
  - Naming rights and sponsorships.
  - Accessing premium experiences.
  - Be vocal supporters.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR LOCAL INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Colleen McCain Nelson, Executive Editor / Regional Editor, The Sacramento Bee / McClatchy

- There is a need to add investigative journalism capacity to cover local issues that matter.
- Additional capacity would support:
  - Greater transparency and accountability from local government officials.
  - Stronger community dialogue on homelessness and other urgent issues.
  - Fair, balanced, comprehensive reporting.