

Tlaquepaque Chamber visits Springfield

The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a delegation of four people representing the Tlaquepaque National Chamber of Commerce last month as part of a staff and volunteer exchange with Springfield's sister city. This visit marked the first exchange since the two Chambers signed a cooperation agreement last year to conduct annual exchanges for staff and volunteers. The Chambers also work together to match their members with business opportunities in the United States and Mexico.

Gonzalo Vazquez, Gabriel Gutierrez, Viridiana Vazquez and Abraham Azpeitia came to Springfield to learn how our Chamber operates. The Tlaquepaque delegation participated in the Chamber's Business and Technology Expo, Good Morning, Springfield! and Business After Hours.

This visit also provided the opportunity for our Chamber



Tlaquepaque Chamber representatives present Chamber Board Chairman Ann Marie Baker with a gift at October's Good Morning, Springfield!

to learn how the Tlaquepaque Chamber operates, as well as experience Mexican culture and interact with one of our partners in the global chamber network. While in Springfield, our visitors from Tlaquepaque were able to visit local attractions, dine in Springfield area restaurants and interact with members of the community.

Community leadership visit from Springfield, IL

On September 24-25, The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce from Springfield, Illinois, for their first Community Leadership Visit. More than 20 community and business leaders came from Springfield, Illinois to learn how our community has promoted regional development, fostered a strong workforce and worked to retain the community's young professionals.

The Greater Springfield Chamber also toured the Jordan Valley Innovation Center and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, and participants were able to enjoy driving tours of Medical

Mile, Partnership Industrial Center and Springfield's downtown area.

The goal of a community leadership visit is for leaders to travel to another community to learn best practices from those who have had particular success or knowledge in areas of economic and community development and then return home with those ideas and use them to benefit their own cities.

This is the second community leadership visit the Chamber has hosted this year. Leaders from our community recently participated in the Chamber's 14th outbound community leadership visit, this time to Knoxville, Tennessee.



Kim Day, CEO, St. John's Health System, discussed the impact of health care on the region.

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