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## ---- Press Release ----

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Advancing Macomb announces the addition of two new board members – Thom Lipari of Lipari Foods and Jim Sawyer, President of Macomb Community College.

The addition of Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Lipari brings the total number of board members to 25 for Advancing Macomb. A current list is available at [www.advancingmacomb.com/about](http://www.advancingmacomb.com/about) Mr. Sawyer steps into his board position as Jim Jacobs, immediate past President of Macomb Community College, steps down.

“I’m proud of the leadership team we have assembled for Advancing Macomb. Both Thom and Jim bring important voices to the board table. Thom, as principal of Lipari Foods, a significant and growing food manufacturer and Jim, as the President of Macomb Community College, the premier community colleges in the country.,” said David Girodat, Chair of Advancing Macomb.

In his fifteen years leading up to being selected as President of the college, Jim Sawyer has also served as the Dean of Engineering and Advanced Technology and Vice Provost for Career Programs. Prior to joining Macomb Community College, Jim held leadership positions in engineering, quality, and operations at companies such as Chrysler, Dana, Ancor and New Haven Foundry.

As President and CEO of Lipari Foods, Thom focused on growing the company his family started in 1963. By completing multiple strategic acquisitions and leading his team into new business opportunities, Lipari Foods now stocks over 18,000 items every day in its central warehouse in Warren, MI and distributes a total of 20,000+ items throughout the Midwest.

“Each of our board members brings a unique industry perspective to the table, which allows us to see a broad picture of the community and where we need to invest for long-term sustainability,” said Melissa Roy, Executive Director of Advancing Macomb. She continued, “It’s wonderful to see Macomb’s top leadership coming together to support the community and connect with the region.”

### **Advancing Macomb Projects To-date:**

*September 2014 – Freedom Hill Playground Enhancement*

*February 2015 & Ongoing – Manufacturing Marketing and Business Development*

*September 2016 – May 2017 – Eastside Bike Drive*

*December 2016 – Clinton River Watershed Council Mt. Clemens Riverfront Project*

**Advancing Macomb** Advancing Macomb is a business and community leadership group led by over 20 leading employers, three principal business organizations and the largest higher educational institution in Macomb County, an area encompassing 860,000 residents and 18,000 businesses. Our organization is committed to enhancing local communities by leveraging a unified civic leadership voice throughout the Detroit region.  
[www.advancingmacomb.com](http://www.advancingmacomb.com)