

Dave Ruller, Kent City Manager
On Dr. Lester Lefton's Retirement Announcement

April 17, 2013

The retirement of a great partner like Dr. Lefton is bittersweet news but when I look at what he has done and how good a friend he has been to the Kent community how could I do anything other than cheer him on.

Way to go Lester. You did it, and you did it so well that you helped a University and a community rediscover itself and renew it's passion for the place they call home.

Lester was contagious. He helped us see that it's not enough to have great ideas, you've got to have the kind energy and vision that can get people up out of their seats and rolling up their sleeves to turn ideas into actions. The results in Kent speak for themselves as we are busy cutting ribbons on projects that for decades were described as impossible.

In his tenure on campus, the economy bottomed-out and Lester helped us rally, lean into it, and throttle up so that we would come out of the great recession stronger than ever. It turns out that where there's a will, and a Lester, there's a way - and his legacy will be evident on campus and in our community for decades.

Lester will be missed but he's earned a retirement full of family photos and I can't imagine a better way to go out -- at the top of his game with all of the University and community success we've enjoyed together serving as an exclamation point on a remarkable career.

Way to go Lester.