

Commitment to quality of life evident in community

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Having lived in Tiffin for less than one month, let me offer my unique perspective to a recently published article in the Advertiser-Tribune that lists our community as one of Ohio's "growth" cities.

I am impressed by this new ranking because it is based on factors - such as population growth and employment levels, household income and graduation rates - which are the intangibles that make Tiffin a distinctive community.

In just a few short weeks, I've had the privilege of meeting numerous progress-minded individuals who have demonstrated a rare commitment to making our community attractive, in terms of both aesthetics and the economy. It has become clear to me already that providing a comfortable quality of life - complete with opportunities in education, industrial and economic growth and development, health care, recreation and service - is a priority that has endured for many years.

There is evidence that this commitment to quality of life is continuing; in fact, it appears to be gaining momentum, and that's encouraging for newcomers like my family and me. We have received such a warm and sincere welcome as we've met new friends both on the campus of Heidelberg College and in the community.

In the months and years ahead, my expectation is that Heidelberg College, and indeed all education providers, will play an increasingly essential role in helping move our community forward. To do so will be a tribute to the efforts of all who have worked so diligently to make Tiffin and Seneca County a place we're proud to call home.

Heidelberg College and Tiffin University already have forged partnerships in some new areas that will be mutually beneficial to our respective institutions and the community at large. One such partnership deals with a new joint academic program that will train paraprofessional educators (teacher aides) in our community.

Those of us who make up the Heidelberg College family are excited to be playing such a vital role in the futures of our children and their families, and I'm especially honored to be leading the way for partnerships with local businesses and organizations. Opportunities for academic institutions in our town - the "education community" - to further enhance our quality of life seem endless. I believe I can speak with confidence on behalf of my colleagues at Heidelberg that we are all eager to take an active role in creatively bringing these opportunities to fruition and shaping an even better atmosphere in which to raise our families.

For six months, as we anticipated our move to Tiffin, my wife, Lisette, and I experienced a great sense of hospitality and family. We look forward to meeting many more of our

Tiffin "neighbors," listening to and learning from your stories, and being actively involved in the positive endeavors that occur on a daily basis in our new community.

As members of the Tiffin community, we also consider you members of the Heidelberg family that includes our faculty, staff, students, alumni and many friends. We extend to you the same welcome you extended to us. We invite you to visit our campus. Attend cultural, athletic or academic events. See for yourself the contributions Heidelberg makes toward the wonderful quality of life in our community.