

## **Tiffin a good place to live and work**

One of the joys of arriving in a new community, as my family did last summer, is experiencing the people, places, and things that make it unique.

The first days and months here provided special memories. My wife Lisette and I will never forget our first performance at the Ritz Theatre. It is truly a gem in this community. The Ritz offers something for everyone – from comedy to classical. It took a community effort to revitalize the landmark and the result is spectacular.

The Ritz serves as an example that by working together, anything is possible. There are so many other examples – places like the YMCA, the new Tiffin Junior High School, the beautiful parks, and the quaint downtown business district – that add so much to the quality of life here. Tiffin is one of Ohio's finest communities and we can all be proud to call it home. At the same time, we must carefully plan for its future so it remains a great place to live and work.

Over the past nine months, Lisette and I have had the opportunity, almost on a daily basis, to discover other great things about this community – and they all begin with people.

Faculty, staff, and students at our two great colleges – Heidelberg College, where I have the honor to serve as president, and Tiffin University, led by Dr. Paul Marion – bring so much to the community. Every week during the school year there is a full schedule of lectures, musical performances, plays, art exhibits, and athletic competitions on both campuses – and we welcome members of the Tiffin community to attend the events.

The schools also provide a measurable economic benefit to the community, adding millions of dollars to the locally economy.

Business is strong in Tiffin, and that also adds to the quality of life here. There are good restaurants, entertainment opportunities, and all kinds of services provided. Tiffin residents can get almost anything they need right here in town. We also have businesses – both big and small -- that sell their products and services all over the world. There are new businesses every month and we have seen growth or re-birth of many others, like National Machinery.

Shortly after we arrived in Tiffin, the city was recognized by Ohio Business magazine as one of Ohio's growth communities. Tiffin ranked ahead of Findlay, Fremont, Sandusky, Sylvania, and Toledo. The honor signifies that companies want to do business here. This is not the first recognition Tiffin has received. In the past few years, Tiffin was honored with a "Red Carnation Award" from the Ohio Development Association and with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Economic Development.

These awards are a direct result of the hard work of the Tiffin Chamber of Commerce and the Seneca Economic Development Corporation (SEIDC). These organizations strive to bring new business and industry to the area, which, in turn, results in a strong economy.

There is much to celebrate in Tiffin – too much for the space I have here. I am proud to call Tiffin home and will work hard for its continued prosperity.

This past Sunday as my wife Lisette and I walked across Heidelberg’s campus following a wonderful commencement ceremony, she turned to me and said “we made a good choice.” Indeed.