

Carol J. Vaughn

Carol J. Vaughn, President of the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce, has been influencing the economic well-being of Shiawassee County since 1993 through the growth of an all-new, product-driven Chamber meeting the unmet needs of the Shiawassee county community. She has served in the capacity of President since 1996. As President, Vaughn has converted the Chamber into a leading business association in the county with numerous new member programs, products and services as well as numerous collaborations and fee-for-service contracts. Through her direction with a team of eight staff members, Chamber membership has grown 100% to over 600 members. One of Vaughn's specialties is the development of unique sources of revenue, creating partnerships and developing new programming. Significant program additions she has created include:

- * The Chamber's Leadership Shiawassee Program, a nine month Leadership Program for new, emerging professional business people, in partnership with Baker College of Owosso.

- * The Chamber's Small Business Resource Center serving the start up and growth needs of small business clients county-wide. This free consultation and education service has assisted over 900 clients in starting and saving their business.

- * The ShiaNet Community Information Network, a grassroots community effort to bring toll-free internet access to Shiawassee County. ShiaNet, a department of the Chamber, served for five years as the community's local Internet Service Provider with 6,000 subscribers and 920 dial-up modems. Now leads LinkMichigan initiatives in the county.

- * The Chamber Government Affairs Committee, created in 2000, has created policy and taken positions on numerous local and state legislative issues.

Vaughn has created several affiliates and separate private non profits including the Shiawassee County Convention and Visitor's Bureau in 1998 and The Chamber Foundation in 2000. She is currently launching the Chamber's newest initiative - a collaborative, county-wide economic development organization, the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership, to conduct industrial and manufacturing business retention, recruitment and marketing efforts. The partnership launched in 2003 upon the successful campaign to raise \$1.25 million for a five year program.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Vaughn spent 15 years in the Automotive Industry serving as Vice President of Manufacturing and Engineering and finally as VP of Marketing for an automotive plastics supplier in Michigan. Her career change and love of the nonprofit service sector was driven by ³the purpose of finding more in life than car parts!²

She serves on numerous state and community boards including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce Executive (MCCE) Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board of the Shiawassee Family YMCA, the Shiawassee Career Initiative Governing Board, the regional Workforce Development Board Education Advisory Group, and the Friends of the Shiawassee River.

Carol graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Operations Management. She is married to Dean Smith and has 2 grown children and 4 dogs. She holds her commercial, multi-engine and instrument ratings and personally enjoys many sports, flying, boating, computers and hobbies. She grew up in Owosso and returned to her hometown in 1993.