

Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership – A Special Thanks to Sharon Corrigan

On May 15, former Dane County Board Chair, Sharon Corrigan, will complete her role as interim Executive Director of the Alliant Energy Center, a role she has held since January.

As a long-time advocate for the 164-acre campus and the role it plays in the community and regional economy, Corrigan has served as chair of the county's Alliant Energy Center Comprehensive Master Plan Oversight and Redevelopment Committees and has helped elevate the significant social, community and economic benefit of redeveloping the campus.

During her tenure as redevelopment champion, she has secured funding and spearheaded the effort to advance the comprehensive master planning process; engaged tirelessly with a multitude of community stakeholders to explore the greatest needs of and potential for enhancing the campus; and has secured support for the project from a wide range of audiences who will benefit from the redevelopment efforts.

Now, Corrigan is preparing to turn over the leadership to the next guard of champions who will help guide this effort to completion. Her county board colleague, Patrick Miles, chair of the county Finance Committee, is continuing her work as Redevelopment Committee chair and long-time county employee, Brent McHenry, has been named as the Alliant Energy Center's new executive director.

Miles praised her work. "Sharon's work on the visioning process engaged an array of stakeholders and made sure that everyone had a voice. That's been so important."

Fellow Redevelopment Committee member and long-time advocate for this project, Deb Archer, President/CEO of Destination Madison and the Madison Area Sports Commission, recognized Corrigan's important role in guiding this process. Archer said, "Sharon's leadership of this effort has been unwavering and her vision for what a redeveloped Alliant Energy Center could mean for Madison, Dane County and our region has been inspiring."

Amidst the vast amount of work to shepherd the Alliant Energy Center operation through this complex time, Corrigan took a few moments to share some parting thoughts about her experience.

Q: What are you most proud of regarding the work you and the county committees have done over the past several years to advance the redevelopment of the Alliant Energy Center?

Sharon Corrigan: I am most proud of the way the committees engaged the community, industry experts and users to ensure that we developed a plan that captured the needs of current and future customers with deep roots in Dane County and Wisconsin.

Q: What additional insights have you gained about the value/benefit of the Alliant Energy Center from serving as the interim executive director?

Corrigan: It's been an honor to cap off my time on the effort to redevelop the Alliant Energy Center by serving as the interim director of the campus. More than anything, I've been reminded of what a hard-

working, dedicated staff we have. We are fortunate to have many, long-time staff who are committed to serving customers and who share the vision of ensuring this campus remains a vibrant part of Dane County. As we've faced the recent public health crisis, I'm also so much more aware of the need to have the Alliant Energy Center. We've been an important location for food distribution and public health planning during these difficult times, thanks to the location, size and the adaptability of the campus.

Q: What final words would you like to share about the future of the Alliant Energy Center campus and the redevelopment effort?

Corrigan: We are traveling through a difficult time for the campus – and certainly for the entire region. The near-term uncertainty for conventions, festivals, large meetings and entertainment is daunting. But I think it is important to look into the future beyond this crisis. People are inherently social and will want – and need - to gather again. Additionally, Madison will continue to be a destination that attracts visitors. We have a plan in place that will secure the Alliant Energy Center's competitive advantage in drawing visitors to Dane County. I think it would be in everyone's best interest to remain steadfast in the effort to bring that vision to reality. And, I think Brent McHenry, as the Alliant Energy Center's Executive Director, along with County Supervisor Patrick Miles, as Chair of the Redevelopment Committee, are well-suited to help carry that mission forward.