

## In the Q: Year in Review



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As 2015 ends and 2016 begins, it is time to take stock of what has been accomplished and prepare for the coming year.

Since starting as the Executive Director of the MedQuarter on June 1st, I have been seeking to make connections and build relationships that will be needed to guide the many initiatives of the District to completion. In the last seven months I have met with land owners, tenants, developers, real estate agents, City staff, stakeholders and a wide variety of individuals who have either a direct or indirect interest in the future of the MedQuarter. In addition I have met with each of the twelve Medical SSMID Commission Members individually to learn more about what they would like to see happen in the District in the coming year. If I were to summarize all that I have learned from these interactions I would say that the MedQuarter is poised for positive growth and development in 2016 due to the economic outlook for the City of Cedar Rapids in general, as well as the increasing interest in our District specifically.

As I look forward to 2016 I foresee many of the initiatives that we are working on now will come to fruition. It seems as though once one domino tips the rest will follow. I also foresee our pipeline of initiatives growing – it has to in order to address the 5-Year goals and objectives drawn from our Master Development Plan.

As a means to prioritize our efforts and assure that we are investing our time, revenues and resources in the right places we will be holding District Gatherings during the month of January to collect insights and feedback from as many of our stakeholders as possible. Since we can't accomplish everything at once, it will help to know what the people in the District value the most and feel would improve the look, feel and/or function of the MedQuarter. Once this information is gathered the Medical SSMID Commission will meet in March to develop a strategy and action steps for our Fiscal Year (1/7/16 – 6/30/17).

I am very proud of the work that has been accomplished to-date, but I am more excited for the work that has yet to be done. The groundwork has been laid for the MedQuarter to hit its stride in 2016.

Keep your eyes on the MedQuarter!