



# CONSULTANT PROFILE

## MITCH FOSTER

Mitch Foster is the Vice President of Administrative Services at West Shore Community College, having transitioned from a successful career in local government. Before joining the college, Mitch served as the city manager for the waterfront community of Ludington beginning in 2019. Prior to that, he was the village administrator for the Village of Winneconne, WI, as well as the village manager for the Village of Kingsley, MI. Mitch and his wife, Becky, have two children, Otto and Elle, who keep them on their toes. When not juggling their busy schedules, they relish living the lake life, with spare time filled with hiking, golf, and a healthy dose of good books.

### YEARS EXPERIENCE

10

### EDUCATION

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, POLITICAL SCIENCE - NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

### SPECIAL EXPERTISE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VISIONING

STRATEGIC PLANNING

PLACEMAKING

### Relevant Experience:

- West Shore Community College
  - Town/Gown relations
- City of Ludington, MI – City Manager
  - Capital Project Management
  - Economic Development
    - Led the Creation of the Ludington Brownfield Authority
  - Placemaking
    - Created Multiple Public Gathering Spaces Throughout the Community
  - Strategic Planning
- Village of Winneconne, WI – Village Administrator
  - Infrastructure Asset Management
    - Oversaw Multiple Million Dollar Infrastructure Projects (Water/Sewer/Roadway/Bridge)
  - Tax Increment Financing Planning and Projects
    - Created Industrial TIF Districts to Accomplish Job Retention/Creation
  - Human Resources
- Village of Kingsley, MI – Village Manager
  - Infrastructure Management Contracting
    - Oversaw Private Contract for Wastewater Plant Operations
  - Downtown Redevelopment
  - Brownfield Redevelopment Planning
    - Cooperative Planning work with Grand Traverse County Brownfield Authority

### Relevant Training:

- Economic Development Basic Course: Michigan Economic Development Association
- Real Estate Development and Reuse: International Economic Development Council
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business Strategies: International Economic Development Council
- Business Retention and Expansion: International Economic Development Council

A Definitive Decision.

**WHY CHOOSE US**



Prioritizing partnerships with authentic leaders who share our vision, purpose, and values of creating better communities for the future is paramount to us. Going above and beyond is in our team's DNA and essential to sustainable long-term progress. Double Haul Solutions can tailor its project teams to your unique needs and requirements.



# SERVICES FOR SMALL TOWNS

## The Importance of Capacity, Recruitment, and Community Support

Small communities often face unique challenges in building capacity, attracting and retaining talent, and fostering meaningful community engagement. At Double Haul Solutions, we specialize in supporting small communities by providing strategic guidance, recruitment services, and tools to enhance capacity and build sustainable progress. We understand the importance of creating strong foundations, cultivating local pride, and encouraging incremental growth that aligns with your community's vision.

Our services focus on empowering small communities to achieve sustainable economic growth through a collaborative and proactive approach. By addressing critical needs and implementing thoughtful strategies, we help communities thrive while maintaining their authenticity and unique identity.

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## Mitch's Approach to Building Sustainable & Economically Viable Communities

My perspective on sustainable economic development highlights the critical role local governments play in fostering community investments. I emphasize developing entrepreneurial ecosystems, driving economic growth through human capital investments, cultivating social capital, enhancing the quality of place, and remaining dedicated to progress.

Vibrant downtowns are at the heart of successful communities, serving as regional destinations that attract talent and maintain authenticity. I believe in focusing on small, proactive steps that create incremental changes with significant impacts on community pride and private investment.

During my time in Winneconne, WI, and Ludington, MI, I showcased how even modest improvements around downtowns can dramatically enhance the pride of a community and inspire further development. This community-driven approach ensures development is sustainable and manageable, avoiding overwhelming projects while fostering lasting, meaningful progress.

