

VEKST CAPITAL

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**NEWLY ESTABLISHED PRIVATE INVESTMENT FIRM, VEKST CAPITAL,
TO GROW WEST MICHIGAN BUSINESSES**

*Vekst invests in family-owned West Michigan companies
who need a trusted and committed capital partner*

Grand Rapids, Mich. July 31, 2023 –Vekst Capital has tapped West Michigan native Steve Tolger to run its private investment firm that makes long-term investments in family-owned West Michigan companies.

Grand Rapids businessman Tim Engen is the founder of [Vekst](#), while Tolger will drive the vision and investments as company president. Steve Smith will serve as Vekst’s chief financial officer.

With operations beginning in July 2023, Vekst brings a unique investment approach to West Michigan, focusing on being a committed capital partner with Midwest family-owned values for acquisition, growth, and business opportunities. Through majority or minority equity investments, Vekst invests in private, profitable companies that are established in their industry, ready to scale, and are West Michigan-focused -- from west of Lansing to the Lakeshore, spanning from the Michigan/Indiana border north toward Mackinaw City.

“We are investing in local, West Michigan companies that want to grow and continue their legacy in this region, while also staying committed to our core values– which is forming meaningful relationships that create a lasting impact with employees, customers, suppliers, and the community,” said Tolger. “ We’re here to support and grow businesses over a long period of time – which is what makes Vekst unique. It all comes back to those Midwest values of forming relationships, and being respectful, transparent and honest in business.”

Born and raised in West Michigan, Tolger previously worked at Ernst & Young in Chicago and RA Capital Advisors, a boutique investment bank in San Diego, before returning to West Michigan. Most recently, he led the M&A and growth for Alliance Physical Therapy Partners, a private equity backed business in

Grand Rapids. Throughout his career, Tolger has executed a variety of business dealings, ranging from \$450,000 to \$600 million, and successfully closing over \$1 billion in transactional value.

“At Vekst, our focus is to serve and help our businesses thrive with not only an existing private investor portfolio, but also through new investors,” said Engen. “Because of the way we’re structured, we have more flexibility than traditional private equity. We provide our companies with the support that will complement or enhance their existing resources and follow their vision.”

Engen’s career began in technology and he has since diversified into other industries. In addition to Vekst Capital, Engen owns various businesses throughout West Michigan, including [CarbonSix](#), [Carbon Builders](#), [Vision Real Estate Investment](#), and part-owner of [People Driven Technology](#) alongside his dad, James Engen, and brother, Ryan Engen.

Vekst is excited to engage and invest in great businesses that will contribute to the continued growth of the West Michigan community.

About Vekst:

Founded in 2023, Vekst was established to acquire, invest, and create West Michigan family-owned companies through majority or minority equity investments. Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Vekst invests in private, profitable companies that are established in their industry, ready to scale, and are West Michigan-focused -- from west of Lansing to the Lakeshore, spanning from the Michigan/Indiana border north toward Mackinaw City.. For more information, visit [Vekst](#).