



# Q2 2024 Economic Development Report



NATIONAL  
CHAMBER  
OF THE YEAR



**FOX CITIES CHAMBER**  
CONNECT | GROW | LEAD



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OF THE YEAR**

## National recognition affirms Chamber strength and community impact!

The Fox Cities Chamber was named Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) at its Annual Conference in Dallas on July 17. The award is the most prestigious and competitive recognition presented annually by ACCE. It recognizes the leadership role chambers of commerce have in their communities. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and impacted key community priorities, such as education, transportation, economic prosperity and quality of life.

“To say we are excited and honored to be named Chamber of the Year by ACCE is an understatement,” said Becky Bartoszek, President and CEO of Fox Cities Chamber. “This recognition affirms the strength of our Chamber and members, as we partner together to drive economic growth and prosperity for the region. To win this award, especially during our 150th anniversary year, is very special.”



## Chamber recognized for communications excellence

In addition to National Chamber of the Year recognition, the Fox Cities Chamber was also named one of 12 recipients of an ACCE Award for Communications Excellence. The national awards program is designed to showcase top communications and marketing work of chambers of commerce and similar organizations. The Chamber’s winning submission was the Fox Cities Chamber Sponsorship Booklet in the category of Print & Electronic Publications.

## Chamber named WI Innovation Award Finalist

The Fox Cities Chamber was named a finalist in the WI Innovation Awards (WIA), which recognizes the state’s most innovative and forward-thinking companies. The Chamber was named a finalist for their Connect Free membership level for small businesses. The winners of the 2024 Wisconsin Innovation Awards will be announced at a ceremony on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Memorial Union in Madison.

## New Chamber health insurance discount benefits small businesses

The Fox Cities Chamber has partnered with **Network Health** to offer an exclusive premium discount on level-funded health insurance plans for Chamber members.

The partnership with Network Health means Chamber members are eligible for an exclusive premium discount on these plans. Fox Cities Chamber members who qualify receive 5% off the base rate of any Network Health underwritten group product, plus two months of credit on administrative fees. The plan discounts are for new Network Health

participants only. Any Chamber membership level is eligible; however, a fee does apply for Connect Free members. The level-funded plans are ideal for businesses with 2 to 99 employees. The Chamber is also working with Network Health to offer competitively priced group health insurance plans.

## Q2 Program and Event Updates



**Future Fox Cities Career Expo** - This popular talent attraction program was held April 9/10 to help local companies build a future pipeline of workers. Over 2,000 students attended and learned about career opportunities from 80+ businesses.

**Civics Bee** - the Fox Cities Chamber hosted a National Civics Bee® qualifier at **Lawrence University** in Appleton, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

**Q2 grow seminar held on how to “Become Customer Centric”** Over 70 attendees heard Jim Harris, Associate Professor of Business Administration – Marketing; **St. Norbert College** talk about focusing on the customer for business success. Special thanks to our host sponsor, **Community First Credit Union**.

**CEO Breakfast** - A panel of Fox Cities executives answered questions and offered insight to local young professionals in May. Thanks to Laurie Butz, **Capital Credit Union**; Chris Hess, **Goodwill Industries**; Todd Kelsey, **Plexus**; and Scott Murphy, **Jewelers Mutual**; for sharing your experiences with our young professionals.

**LFC Commencement** - Congratulations to 40 individuals from companies around the Fox Cities, who graduated from Leadership Fox Cities on May 21:

Kathy Angst, **VF Corporation**  
Sara Broten, **Ornuo Ingredients**  
Jessica Ebertsch, **Miron Construction**  
Amy Fairchild, **City of Neenah**  
Jon Fredrickson, **Oshkosh-Vocational**  
Kristine Groell, **Fox Valley Technical College**  
Luke Heimlich, **C.R. Structure Group, Inc.**  
Kathryn Johann, **BBBS of East Central WI**  
Megan LaFond, **Day by Day Shelter**  
Josh Lambrecht, **United Way Fox Cities**  
Holly Magness, **Kaukauna Area School District**  
Maddie Middlestadt, **Prevea Health**  
Matthew Nowak, **Wipfli LLP**  
Terri Perkins, **UW-Oshkosh**  
Eric Rasmussen, **Winnebago County**  
Kari Seefeldt, **Bassett Mechanical**  
Riley Stever, **Network Health Plan**  
Tyler Swenson, **WBD, Inc.**  
Anne Van, **Outagamie County**  
Tiffany Woelfel, **Amundsen Davis**

Tina Behling, **Werner Electric Supply**  
Stephanie Buchanan, **Touchmark on West Prospect**  
Kim Esselman, **Appleton Housing Authority**  
Alicia Frank, **United Way Fox Cities**  
Kari Godsill, **Appleton Housing Authority**  
Marita Hebert, **Community First Credit Union**  
Molly Huhn, **ASP, Inc.**  
Danielle Kolman, **Lawrence University**  
Brandon LaMaide, **Brewster Village – Outagamie Co.**  
Kayla Lindal, **Family Services Northeast Wisconsin**  
Jeannie Mahone, **Arden Property Group**  
Tamara Nickasch, **Pierce Manufacturing**  
Rochelle Oskey, **Outagamie County**  
Emily Pinzl, **Herrling Clark Law Firm**  
Kelly Riley, **Ascension NE WI – St. Elizabeth Hospital**  
Michael Selner, **American National Bank Fox Cities**  
Jennifer Strebiger, **Community First Credit Union**  
Erich Trepanier, **Fireline Sprinkler, LLC**  
Chris Van Dyke, **Capital Credit Union**  
Jenny Ziegler, **Lawrence University**

**Drug Crisis Seminar** - No challenge has been more devastating to Wisconsin communities large and small than the drug epidemic we have faced for over two decades. Chamber members and the public were invited to a special seminar in June to learn what can be done to help combat this crisis.



# Business Attraction and Retention

## FCCRP by the Numbers - Q2 2024

### Q2 Business Retention/Attraction

- Responded to 5 requests for economic data.
- Held 8 business milestone / ribbon cuttings.
- Assisted with 4 business attraction projects: Project Mango, Project Trident, Project Porkchop, & Project Lift.
- Conducted 18 Business Retention & Expansion visits
- **Great Northern Laminations** was certified as an Employee Friendly Workplace
- **Heartland Business Systems** was designated as a Champion of Young Professionals .

**Connect Free Memberships** - 55 Fox Cities small businesses joined the Chamber at its Connect Free level in Q2. To date, 715 small businesses have taken advantage of this unique free membership opportunity.

**YP Memberships** - Membership in our PULSE Young Professionals continues to expand. In Q2 we added 34 young professionals, bringing total memberships in the group to 715.

### Economic partnerships and collaborations

- The Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the **Appleton International Airport** on June 6 to celebrate the start of a non-stop route to Dallas.
- Staff from the Chamber attended the **NEW North Summit** on June 6.
- The Chamber held a ribbon cutting at **The Brin** on June 13, a newly constructed Menasha apartment complex.

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## Chamber holds 150th Time Capsule Ceremony

As part of its 150-year anniversary celebration, the Fox Cities Chamber held a time capsule ceremony in June. Chamber stakeholders attended the ceremony, which included a few words from sponsors **Goodwill** and **Secura** then placement of the time capsule in an interior Chamber wall.

The time capsule held clippings, photos, and memorabilia that represent the current Chamber, as well as our community and nation. Each sponsor also was able to place an item in the box. The Chamber's 150th special label beer, done in partnership with **McFleshman's Brewing Co.**, was served afterward.

## SBDC establishes office hours at Chamber

The Chamber has partnered with the **Small Business Development Center** (SBDC) to have a consultant onsite monthly. The SBDC will hold office hours at the Chamber on the third Tuesday of the month from noon - 4 PM. Business owners seeking guidance growing their small business, or those thinking of starting a business, are welcome to reach out for no-cost, confidential consulting and business education.



**Questions or interested in setting up a free Business Retention & Expansion consultation?**

Contact Eric Broten,  
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**Find us online**

FoxCitiesRegion.com