

Scot Lindemann  
CEO  
Mission Design & Automation

WE ARE The West Coast  
Chamber

Meet Your New West Coast  
Chamber Board Members

Zeeland Citizen's Academy  
Achieves Outstanding  
Success

## Innovation and Teamwork Powers Business Excellence at Mission Design & Automation

# West Coast Chamber Premier Partners

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## COMMUNITY CHAMPION PREMIER PARTNER



## GOLD PREMIER PARTNERS



## SILVER PREMIER PARTNERS



## Catalyst, Convener, and Champion

The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce serves as a catalyst for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers, and a champion for our thriving community. The Chamber serves its 1,200 members by building businesses, advocating for issues that matter, developing leaders, and supporting initiatives to build an inclusive community where all feel welcome.

The West Coast Chamber has been recognized with the U.S. Chamber's prestigious Five Star Accreditation. Less than 1% of Chambers in the country receive this distinction.

## CHAMBER STAFF

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President & CEO

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## Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce

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[www.westcoastchamber.org](http://www.westcoastchamber.org)



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## The West Coast Way

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Each year, we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to celebrate the success of our business community at our Annual Awards Celebration. This month, we are honored to highlight the remarkable achievements of our Excellence Award winner, Mission Design and Automation. Their success stands as a shining example of innovation, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to growth within our community. As we celebrate their accomplishments, we recognize the incredible momentum we can all build together.

At the West Coast Chamber, we believe in the power of collaboration and shared success. By sharing best practices, fostering relationships, and striving for continual improvement, each of us has the potential to elevate our organizations to new heights of excellence. Let's be inspired by Mission Design's journey as we trailblaze our own paths, creating a lasting impact on the community where we live, work, and play.

**Jodi Owczarski**  
President & CEO  
Michigan West Coast Chamber  
of Commerce

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# WE ARE The West Coast Chamber

On September 26, we gathered at the Annual Award Celebration: An Evening with the Chamber to recognize your collective success in the business community this past year. Among the live music, delicious food and the awards presented to several members for their extraordinary work and contributions, we also made a special announcement: the official launch of our WE ARE series.

The WE ARE the West Coast Chamber series is a campaign dedicated entirely to celebrating the inspiring, untold stories of *your* collaborations, partnerships and innovations as an engaged West Coast Chamber member.

As members, you are a part of something bigger. Through years of dedication and collaboration, we've created a special community—a unique place of thriving, diverse, community-oriented businesses and organizations that share the goal of a bright and innovative future.



It is a privilege to represent and build up the businesses that make West Michigan such a wonderful place to live, learn, work and play. We are grateful to be your partners and advocates. Your goals are why we work so hard to build connections, impact the community and invest in the future of West Michigan.

The business representation in our Chamber spans across all sizes and industries. From your manufacturing companies to your nonprofit organizations and your healthcare practice to your restaurants and boutiques, we stand as a proud convener of exceptional leaders and influencers. It is a privilege to serve as a catalyst for business growth and development. As your Chamber, we promote a business-friendly environment through access to elected officials and education on important issues that will impact your organization. Together, we can unite our voices and advocate as one for the betterment of our business community.

Our unique position means we get to work with you all up close. For years, we've been celebrating your victories, collecting success story upon success story. These collective wins form a tidal wave of positive impact and cascade throughout our West Michigan community.

While we get the privilege of telling these stories, know that these stories belong to *you*. Your success deserves recognition and celebration. Together, WE ARE, the West Coast Chamber.





# Meet Your New West Coast Chamber Board Members

The Michigan West Coast Chamber Board of Directors consists of a diverse group of volunteers from our business community who guide and shape the Chamber's direction. They ensure we uphold our Core Values and positively impact our members. We're thrilled to introduce four new Board Members for the upcoming program year. Discover more about them now!

**What excites you about joining the Chamber Board of Directors?** Learning more about what drives local business, and contributing my experiences with others to shape a future that reflects the community's values and longings.

**Who has been your greatest inspiration and why?** Jesus. Daily, he challenges me to a better way.



**Vince Boileau**  
Managing Partner,  
Boileau & Co.

**Years at Current Company:**  
12 Years

**Favorite Quote:** "Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." – James 1:19

**Hobbies:** String instruments, new experiences with my kids, geeky board games, craft cocktails and a view.



**Kim Burmeister**  
CEO, SpinDance

**Years at Current Company:**  
9 Years

**Favorite Quote:** "Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse. If you're comfortable doing it, you're probably doing it wrong." – Ted Lasso

**Hobbies:** Reading, fishing, cooking, traveling, and spending time with my family.

**What excites you about joining the Chamber Board of Directors?** After spending a year in the West Coast Leadership Program, I am most excited to be on the Chamber board to find ways to help make an impact on our amazing community. This position will get me a layer deeper and I am energized to dig in alongside other incredible community leaders. We have so much to give and to learn from one another.

**Who has been your greatest inspiration and why?** My family has been a lifelong source of inspiration. My father gave me my work ethic and my mother gave me my heart for service. My mother-in-law has been an entrepreneur who wasn't afraid to take risks. My father-in-law values community and family. But most recently, I am inspired by my children who face challenges head on, but aren't afraid to ask for help along the way. I think adults forget that help is both a gift to give and one to receive.



**Beth O'Laughlin**  
Partner, Warner  
Norcross + Judd

**Years at Current Company:**  
10 Years

**Favorite Quote:** "Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare."

**Hobbies:** Running, camping, chasing my sons around the soccer field, enjoying the beauty of west Michigan.

**What excites you about joining the Chamber Board of Directors?** As a relatively recent transplant to the Holland area, I'm excited for the opportunity to get more involved in the community. I've participated in a number of Chamber events and programs in recent years and am always impressed but how engaging and informative they are. I look forward to contributing to this great organization.

**Who has been your greatest inspiration and why?** I've been surrounded by inspiring people my entire life, but as a woman in the legal field, Ruth Bader Ginsberg has always been a role model for me. Her presence on the Supreme Court showed women it is possible to step into places of power and, more importantly, to use that power

to support those who need it the most. She fought for causes she cared about in a way that led others to join her, which is something I strive to do in my own life.



**Elizabeth Rolinski**  
Managing Director,  
Leading by Design

**Years at Current Company:**  
4 Years

**Favorite Quote:** "At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished.

It's about what you've done with those accomplishments. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." – *Denzel Washington*

**Hobbies:** Games with our grandkids (UNO!), sailing, hiking, biking, reading, and STEM programs for kids.

**What excites you about joining the Chamber Board of Directors?** The opportunity to collaborate around what a strong, healthy West Michigan looks like in the years to come. I have a passion for the businesses that support our vibrant economy, the strategic approaches that make us unique, and the diverse people that make us a community. On top of that, I am excited about the amazing group of people on the Board and at the Chamber that I will get to learn from and spend time with!

**Who has been your greatest inspiration and why?** It would be hard for me to say who is the "greatest" inspiration among those in my life; I have been blessed with many. I have an amazing family, and they each inspire me in different and profound ways. If I think of someone "famous" and "from afar," though, it would be Mother Teresa. Her unwavering commitment to compassion, empathy, and love models true leadership of service. Her legacy has nothing to do with power or prestige; it's about selflessly serving others. She accomplished so much for so many that it can feel both overwhelming and humbling. Yet, she inspired all to keep at it nonetheless: "If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one."





# From Search to Success: Finding the Right Intern Through the West Coast Chamber Job Board

By Linda Kaiser | Owner, Holland Tasting Tours

When I first heard about the West Coast Chamber of Commerce’s online internship board, I decided to give it a try. As the owner/operator of Holland Tasting Tours, I do close to everything for my business. I hoped that having a marketing intern would give me more time to focus on the aspects of my business that I love and help me see one of the less-enjoyed aspects through a fresh pair of eyes. I was also looking forward to providing a hands-on learning opportunity for the intern.

The Chamber’s internship board was straightforward and efficient. The platform allowed me to post a detailed description of the role, responsibilities, and benefits of the internship, which helped attract suitable candidates. After that, all I had to do was interview those that applied and make my choice.



I was pleasantly surprised when my posting netted three candidates for the position. After the interview process, Cole Luhmann, an incoming senior at Hope College and captain of the football team, was chosen. With a major in Business and a minor in Leadership and Communication,

Cole’s background aligned well with my needs. His positive personality and eagerness to help made him a standout candidate for our summer internship.

Having Cole on board this summer has been a useful and instructive experience, both for him and for me. He has brought a new perspective to our marketing strategies, and his proactive approach has driven some exciting new



initiatives. If you are hoping to find an intern that meets the needs of your business, here are some tips that might help, as well as insights from Cole himself on making the most out of an internship experience.

## Tips for Employers: Finding and Managing Interns

- 1. Clearly Define Expectations:** Ensure your internship listing clearly outlines what the intern's role will be, including tasks, project goals, and the skills required. This helps attract candidates who are genuinely interested and qualified for the position.
- 2. Leverage Chamber Resources:** Utilize the Chamber's internship board or similar platforms to reach a broad pool of candidates. This is a great way to make sure that your internship opportunity is seen by motivated, local students.
- 3. Foster a Supportive Environment:** Interns, like anybody else, thrive in environments where they feel valued and supported. Make sure to provide regular feedback, offer mentorship, and encourage open communication.
- 4. Set Realistic Goals:** While it can be good to challenge your interns, it's also important to ensure that they can actually achieve the tasks that you give them within the allotted timeframe. Having clear, realistic goals will help keep them motivated and focused.

## Cole's Tips for Interns

- 1. Research Thoroughly:** Before applying, understand the company's mission, goals, and the specifics of the internship role. This knowledge will help you tailor your application and make a strong impression during interviews.

- 2. Utilize Existing Relationships:** Reach out to connections who might be able to provide insights or referrals. If you know someone who works at a company you're eyeing, reach out. Sometimes, a friendly nudge from a connection can make all the difference.
- 3. Start Early:** Don't wait until the last minute to start your internship search. The earlier you begin, the more options you'll have, and the less stressful the process will be.
- 4. Communicate Effectively:** Once you secure an internship, maintain clear and timely communication with your employer. Respond to emails, calls, or texts within 24 hours. This gives you plenty of time to think about your response and gather your thoughts.
- 5. Be Proactive and Inquisitive:** Arrive early and work with purpose because you never know what will come out of the internship. If you are not totally sure what the assignment is, do not assume and just do. Ask questions to clarify.

In summary, using the West Coast Chamber of Commerce's internship board worked! For employers and students alike, it's a resource worth exploring.

Linda Kaiser is the daughter of Dutch immigrants and a graduate of Hope College. Upon completing her stint as a stay-at-home mom five years ago, she re-invented herself as the owner/operator of Holland Tasting Tours, offering walking food tours of downtown Holland, history tours of a local cemetery, and step-on tours. Linda also enjoys her role as Ambassador for the West Coast Chamber of Commerce. She is passionate about her family, Holland, travel, food, kayaking and napping (not simultaneously). Linda loves to laugh and appreciates the opportunity to do so with others. She was recently promoted to "Oma" (Dutch for grandma) and would love to show you pictures of her grandson.





# Innovation and Teamwork Powers Business Excellence at Mission Design & Automation

By Scot Lindemann | CEO, Mission Design & Automation

Mission Design & Automation is a custom automation systems integrator right here in Holland. The team at Mission conceptualizes, designs, builds, programs, and installs custom advanced manufacturing equipment and systems for a variety of industries across North America, including automotive, construction, consumer goods, defense, e-commerce and logistics, food and beverage, housing, medical device, and more. If you've ever seen the show *How it's Made*, it's kind of like that — essentially, we make machines that make things you use in everyday life. Being a custom systems integrator means having strong engineering expertise and teaming up with customers to deliver custom tailored engineered

solutions that help reach their challenging and ever-changing manufacturing goals. Mission has grown to be a world-class automation leader, and with their commitment to helping employees, customers, and community thrive, they truly embody business excellence.

## What makes Mission different?

Walk through the doors of Mission Design & Automation, and you'll instantly feel welcomed. Mission prides itself on being intentional about how employees feel when they are at work, and how they feel on Sunday night,

before coming in on Monday. Our mission statement, “Deliver great experiences and solutions through a culture of innovation and teamwork,” rings true from the top level of leadership to our newest employees and young staff, some still in high school. One thing we believe truly sets us apart is our company culture. We know our most valuable asset, our employees, walk out the door every night, so we’re intentional about cultivating a place where people enjoy working, feel engaged, and have a passionate mindset for solving complex problems, with room to grow. One way we foster a great culture is by implementing training plans for employees, with over half of our company going through comprehensive leadership development training, as well as offering cross-departmental training so team members get a well-rounded understanding of what other departments do. We also encourage team outings and team building activities to enhance trust and belonging on the team, and we gather for weekly all-team meetings with a focus on shoutouts to celebrate team or departmental wins.

Our team is known for taking on some of the more unique and challenging manufacturing applications. We don’t shy away when there’s not a quick “off-the-shelf” solution to a manufacturing process. In fact, that’s when we really sharpen our pencils and get to work. When a customer comes to us with a great concept, especially one that we know the world needs, such as helping with food shortages or the housing crisis, we’re going to do what we can to help them make that happen and find success in doing so.

We’re not a one-size-fits-all kind of place. Just as the manufacturing industry is vast and has infinite possibilities for future transformation, we know that there are many ways to automate different manufacturing processes. Some of the ways we help manufacturers achieve their goals are through robotics process automation, conveyance, palletization, quality inspections, packaging, material handling, assembly, and more.

## Tell us about Mission Design & Automation’s journey to Excellence.

Starting in 2004, Mission has grown from a small machine tool builder in a garage, expanding into one suite of an industrial business space in 2009, and continuing to grow into that full building through 2020, when, growing



*Mission integrated a collaborative palletizing system for a food & beverage customer.*

alongside our customers required us to expand into a new 53,750 square foot facility, which we opened in 2021. As technology has advanced, the need for safer, faster, and more high-quality manufacturing solutions has grown, and our team has grown in parallel to enable this success and industry growth.

With 20 years under our belt developing custom automation solutions and growing with the automation industry, Mission makes it their business to understand exactly what makes their customers excel, and partners alongside them to achieve just that. Together, they work



*Mission Machine Build Assistant, Sophia DeGraff, assembling an industrial conveyor for an automotive customer.*



Kevin Miller, CFO; Mark Driesenga, VP; Scot Lindemann, CEO; Gerald Halford, VP; Ryan Lillibridge, VP; Sami Birch, Director, Marketing & Communications (from left to right)

that we can change pathways for students much younger than the collegiate level, so we welcome tours of our facility and participate in programs like Manufacturing Week and CareerQuest, to help inform students of all ages about the many careers in advanced manufacturing. We're also avid supporters of local FIRST Robotics teams, helping students hone their skills in robotics building, programming, and performance. Over the years, we've found ways to support our local community in different ways, from painting murals for Zeeland's Pumpkinfest and participating in the annual Tulip Time parades, to volunteering time and financial support. In 2023, we established the Mission Impact Team, a dedicated, employee-driven team that organizes fundraisers and volunteering for local nonprofits, and fun team building opportunities for our employees.

### What does the 2024 Excellence Award mean to Mission Design & Automation?

The Mission Design & Automation team is so honored to be named the 2024 Excellence Award winner by the West Coast Chamber. We believe that by holding true to our values, staying committed to what is important to our employees, customers, and in our community, we will continue to embody excellence and provide solutions that transform the future.

to develop new ways to use automation to make production environments safer, more productive, and more profitable. As technology changes and more companies adapt automation, we're eager for the future, from large scale turn-key systems to standalone stations. One thing we're excited about is that access to automation is becoming more readily available to small-to-midsize companies than ever before. We've been busy developing adaptable, affordable, and easy-to-use collaborative robot systems that enable those without engineering experience to program and employ robots to help curb the burden of labor shortages.

At Mission, we know that to be a thriving business, you must be an active community contributor, and we take that commitment seriously. We take pride in partnering with educational institutions all over Michigan to provide internship and co-op opportunities to students just starting out in their engineering journeys. We also know

Scot Lindemann, CEO of Mission Design & Automation, has over 30 years of leadership in the Automation and Robotics industry, served right here in West Michigan. Scot has a passion for intelligent automation, robotics, customer success, leadership development, and educating the next generation. Scot's continuous support of the automation industry has found him serving on the Association for Advancing Automation's (A3) Robotics Technology Strategy Board, a recipient of FANUC Robotics America's prestigious President's Circle Award, appointed to the Lake Superior State University Board of Directors, as well serving as Chairman of the Board for Lakeshore Advantage. Scot is also an avid supporter of FIRST Robotics programs across West Michigan, helping to inspire the next generation of automation developers. He lives here in Holland with his wife, Lisa.



# Building the Future: EV Construction's Commitment to Holland

By John Parker | Vice President of Project Development, EV Construction

Next year, EV Construction will celebrate 80 years as a commercial construction firm dedicated to delivering high-quality projects that enhance communities. While our projects range from large to small and span the country in location, we take special pride in building spaces that inspire and empower Holland residents and businesses. Locally, we're known for our work with Tommy's Express and Quality Car Wash or decades of projects with Holland Hospital and Corewell Health, but two new projects in our community that we're proud to complete are The Farmstead by Resthaven and Lakeshore Advantage's Next Center.

## A Modern Take on Country Living: The Farmstead

The recent completion of The Farmstead by Resthaven adds a vibrant, nature-rich senior living community on 24th Street in Holland. The community reflects a modern take on country living, offering a blend of independent living options and assisted living on a 20-acre campus. The community's design and proximity to VanRaalte Farm Park encourage active, fulfilling lifestyles, fostering connections, and enriching the local area.

The Farmstead is the latest project completed by EV Construction for Resthaven. The partnership between these organizations started when both organizations were formed in 1945 and includes many projects on Resthaven's Holland properties. Senior living projects like The Farmstead are EV's specialty and represent over half of the company's future backlog.

## Entrepreneurship Starts Here: The Next Center

Currently wrapping up is the Next Center for Lakeshore Advantage, a state-of-the-art facility set to revolutionize the entrepreneurial landscape of West Michigan. Located at the corner of 7th and College in downtown Holland, this 20,000-square-foot project embodies a long-term vision of the Holland SmartZone. As we prepare for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, we celebrate the imminent opening of this cornerstone for innovation and economic growth in the region.



The Next Center was designed by Holland-based GMB Architecture + Engineering to be a modern, three-story facility that will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of downtown Holland but will also serve as the new headquarters for Lakeshore Advantage, further cementing its role as the heart of economic development on the lakeshore. The building is designed to be a dynamic hub for startups, entrepreneurs, and established businesses. Entrepreneurs will be embedded within an established business network with high visibility for their startups, increased accountability, and access to a concentration of business services.

The Next Center is more than just a building; it is a commitment to the future of Holland's entrepreneurial community. Providing a physical presence and go-to resource fulfills a long-term vision for Lakeshore Advantage. It will attract visitors and new businesses, further enhancing Holland's reputation as a thriving hub for technology and innovation.

## Built Around People

At EV Construction, we are dedicated to building not just structures but communities. We believe these strong communities start with the individuals who live and work in them daily. EV's unique company culture is built on connection with those we work with and work for. We want to thank the greater Holland/Zeeland community for being a wonderful place for our business to make those connections. We look forward to 80 more years of building with you!





# Zeeland Citizen's Academy Achieves Outstanding Success

By Andrew Boatright | General Manager, Zeeland Board of Public Works

*Andrea Hill, Tarrah Meyering, Heidi Allen, Debra McCoskey, Shawn Newhouse, Andrea VanDussen, Wendy Combs, Angela DeMeester, Drew DeMeester, John Guarino, Dirk Van Bruggen, Jacob Bonnema, Allen Siestma (from left to right)*

**H**ow did Zeeland, Michigan ever come into existence? What inspired the hatchery, furniture, and automotive industries to establish a major presence in Zeeland? How is the City of Zeeland governed? Is the library a department of the City? How much does the City spend each year? What role does the City play in impacting the quality of life for the citizens of Zeeland? These questions and more were explored during the City of Zeeland's inaugural Zeeland Citizen's Academy held from July 10 through August 7, 2024, for five Wednesday meetings, lasting anywhere from 2 and a half to 3 hours each.

The Zeeland's Citizen's Academy is designed to provide residents of Zeeland an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the structure and functions of their city government. Sessions offered an in-depth look at the fundamentals of the City's administration and library, finance, IT, streets, parks, cemeteries and utilities, public safety, community development, downtown, and

marketing. Additional topics covered included the basics of local government, elections, local history and more.

Applications were accepted beginning on April 1st and available seats were filled by April 10th. We even had a waiting list! Applicants were asked to share why they wished to participate in the Academy and the common theme was that they were driven to learn more about the city and to share what they learned with others in their personal and business networks. This is exactly what we were hoping for!

The purpose of Zeeland's Citizen's Academy is to educate residents, encourage new leaders and volunteers, and, most importantly, to spread the ZEEL! The Citizen's Academy is an ideal program for community leaders, current or potential future appointed or elected officials, curious residents, and students with an interest in local affairs. Participants increase their knowledge of City operations, network with fellow community members,

engage with City staff, and become better equipped to help shape the future of the community.

City of Zeeland staff thoroughly enjoyed sharing information about what they do and how and why they do it with a group of highly engaged citizens. Furthermore, the Academy participants were able to get to know, on a personal level, the people working behind the scenes who snowplow and sweep the streets, who procure power for the electric utility, who are the catalyst behind downtown development, who respond to emergencies at all hours of the day, who govern and manage the City, and so on. It has proven to be an amazing opportunity for elected and appointed officials and staff to demonstrate their tremendous commitment to serving the citizens of Zeeland.

The Academy provided participants with a unique opportunity to gain first-hand insights into the inner workings of local government and understand the vital role it plays in their daily lives. The five weekly sessions went fast, and each lasted a little bit longer than scheduled. But the participants seemed unfazed by the longer duration sessions. A post Academy survey was conducted, and participants highly rated their experiences. The following testimony from one participant summed it up nicely: "I really didn't know much about the city structure and how it works. I have found all the information provided so very interesting. Meeting people from various walks of life has been amazing. I liked being



able to see all the various places that our tax money is working and working well... This makes me excited to see what the city plans for the future. It's amazing to see what such a small town can do." The 2024 Zeeland Citizen's Academy concluded with a graduation ceremony during the August 19 regular City Council meeting.

This year's Zeeland Citizen's Academy was an outstanding success, and we plan to do it again in 2025. We'll take what we've learned from feedback we've received from participants to make next year's Academy even better!



Andrew Boatright is the General Manager at the Zeeland Board of Public Works, the electricity and water provider for the City of Zeeland and surrounding areas. A passionate supporter of community-owned and locally controlled utilities, Andy has served in various leadership roles over his forty-plus years of service at community-owned electric utilities in Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and, most recently, in Zeeland, Michigan. Andy resides in Zeeland his wife, Eileen, of forty-one years.

# Upcoming Programs

To **register**, visit our website or scan the QR code on this page.



## October 8, 2024

### Wake Up West Coast

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Haworth Hotel

Join us for Wake Up West Coast, featuring Jennifer Owens, President of Lakeshore Advantage, to get an insider's look at the challenges, opportunities, and strengths of the lakeshore's economy. This program will present compelling, data-driven insights from over 120 local executives, relevant to anyone who lives or works in this region.

*Program Sponsor:* **JR Automation**

*Morning Mingle Sponsor:* **AAC Credit Union**

## Save the Date for Future Wake Up West Coast Programs:

- November 12, 2024 | Topsyie VandenBosch, Escape The Comparison Trap
- February 11, 2025 | Abbey Johnston, Conscious Leadership
- March 11, 2025 | To Be Announced
- April 15, 2025 | To Be Announced
- May 6, 2025 | To Be Announced – Special Edition: Leadership Live!

## October 16, 2024

### Workshop: Sell More With Story

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce

Discover how storytelling can captivate your audience and drive meaningful conversions at this engaging workshop, featuring Robert Hughes, CEO of Hughes Integrated. Attendees will gain actionable insights to elevate their marketing strategy and achieve their business goals.

## October 23, 2024

### Social Hour with the Chamber

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

The Good Earth Cafe

This month, we are proud to partner with The Good Earth Cafe for a lunch hour in their new space on River Ave. Join us to build connections, both old and new. Bring a friend or two and add some deliciousness to your day. We hope to see you there!

## October 25, 2024

### General Election Candidate Forum

7:45 AM – 9:30 AM

Holland Civic Center

At this special Advocacy in Action program, meet local candidates running for office in the upcoming election. This forum will focus on contested races at the State and County level that represent the majority of our members and their businesses. Candidates will share about themselves and their stance on important community issues as well as participate in a facilitated Q & A.

*Advocacy in Action Mission Lead Sponsor:* **Blue Cross Blue Shield and Blue Care Network of Michigan**

## Save the Date for Future Advocacy in Action Programs:

- November 5, 2024 | Election Day – Don't Forget To Vote!
- December 9, 2024 | Breakfast with Our Congressman, Bill Huizenga
- January 3, 2025 | To Be Announced
- February 7, 2025 | To Be Announced
- March 7, 2025 | To Be Announced
- May 2, 2025 | To Be Announced

## October 29, 2024

### Forward Together

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Holland Civic Center Place

Save the date for the second annual Forward Together Summit, focused on inclusivity and the power of learning and growing together. This dynamic event will inspire constructive dialogue and actions to build a more inclusive community and economy. Attendees will engage with local speakers through panels and various media formats to promote unity, equity, and accessibility for all. Speakers to be announced.



# HAPPENINGS



Members enjoyed a great day of golfing and networking at our 56th annual Golf Outing.



Geerlings Development and KJK developers broke ground on the Lakewood Place Apartment Village project.



StrEATs Taco Kitchen celebrated the launch of their food truck with an energetic ribbon cutting.



Members gathered on the Chamber patio to enjoy delicious tacos and networking at our last Midday Mingle of the summer.



At the final Social Hour of the season, members enjoyed drinks and made connections on the Port 393 patio.



Wendy Block from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce helped members understand the impact of Michigan's new minimum wage and paid leave regulations at last month's Advocacy in Action.



Baird moved into their newly consolidated office space and marked the occasion with a ribbon cutting.

# Premier Partner Spotlight

## Grand Rapids Community College Lakeshore Campus

Together, we've got this.

Discover the Grand Rapids Community College Lakeshore Campus in Holland, Michigan, offering academic programs and student support in one convenient, state-of-the-art location. Work toward the future you imagine by taking classes that fit your schedule. We know life doesn't stop for you to get an education and GRCC is here to support you every step of the way while you earn a degree or job training certificate.

At GRCC's Lakeshore Campus you'll find many of the same programs available at our Main Campus in downtown Grand Rapids, as well as student support services like advising, counseling, library services, and more. The Lakeshore Campus features ten classrooms, three computer labs and six specialized labs for biology, chemistry, electronics, hydraulics/pneumatics, welding and machine tooling.



Students can choose to complete their general education classes at the Lakeshore Campus rather than at the Main Campus, and have the ability to work toward a traditional associate degree or complete specialized career training.

Students also have the option to divide their time between both campuses, allowing for flexibility and affordability. Classes are offered in various formats — both in-person and online — on weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. These classes are scheduled at locations throughout Kent and Ottawa counties to accommodate diverse schedules.

Located at 12335 James St. in Holland, Michigan, the Lakeshore Campus is ready to support your educational journey. For more information, contact us at (616) 234-4054 or [LakeshoreCampus@grcc.edu](mailto:LakeshoreCampus@grcc.edu).



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# Renewing Members

## It's All About YOU

The West Coast Chamber's **Why** boils down to this: It's All About You. Being a partner for you, a resource for you, and an ally for you. When you renew your Chamber membership, it tells us that we are being responsive to your needs and providing value, and that you trust us to be here for your business whenever you need us. Your renewal is the ultimate source of feedback on the positive impact the West Coast Chamber has on fostering strong businesses that support a thriving community. Thank you!

## We appreciate our members who recently renewed their memberships:

\* Indicates years of membership

AcenTek (formerly Ace Communications)  
 Adobe  
 Alpine Events/The Rental Company  
 Annie Lane Bridal – **5\***  
 Benjamin's Hope  
 Brownson Properties (JBBBC.com fund)  
 Business Intelligence Solutions  
 Butch's Dry Dock  
 Calder Capital - Parker Schaap  
 Choice Machinery Group  
 City of Zeeland  
 Clark & Clark Specialty Products, Inc. – **30\***  
 Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area  
 Creatively Centered LLC – **5\***  
 Culture Impact – **5\***  
 Cusack Manufacturing – **5\***

Diamond Springs Golf Course – **5\***  
 Edward Jones DeWeerd  
 Excell Construction Services  
 Glenda's Lakewood Flowers – **10\***  
 Greenridge Realty  
 Harmony Communities  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 Howard Miller Clock Co.  
 Howard Miller Library & Community Center  
 i-team North America  
 Johns Dozing Service Inc.  
 Ladder Homes, Inc. – **5\***  
 Lakeshore Bankruptcy Center - Marcia R. Meoli, PLLC  
 Lakeshore Scale, Inc. – **25\***  
 Major Brands Oil Company  
 Mary Kay Cosmetics – Mindy Cook – **5\***  
 Morrison Industrial Equipment



Picket Fence Floral & Design  
 Plascore Inc.  
 Port Sheldon Township  
 Pyramid Acoustics Inc.  
 Salt & Pepper Savory Grill and Pub  
 SolidCircle – **5\***  
 Sybesma's Auto  
 TelDesigns Inc.  
 The Farmhouse  
 The Good Earth  
 Tip Toes

Tommy Car Wash Systems  
 Tulip City Paddle Tours LLC  
 Vanden Bosch Co., John A.  
 Vander Meulen Builders – **5\***  
 Veronicajune Photography Wellness Co.  
 West Ottawa Eyecare – **5\***  
 Westside Service – Holland – **10\***  
 Windmill Restaurant Inc.  
 Zeeland Lumber & Supply

## New Members

Welcoming these new members who recently joined the West Coast Chamber

**hg medical USA, LLC**  
**Daniel Kahn**  
[www.hg-medical.de/en](http://www.hg-medical.de/en)

**Journey Carpet Cleaning**  
**Paul Klockert**  
 (616) 209-9128  
[www.journeycarpetcleaning.com](http://www.journeycarpetcleaning.com)  
[paul@journeycarpetcleaning.com](mailto:paul@journeycarpetcleaning.com)

**Saugatuck Antique Pavilion**  
**Jim Higginbottom**  
 (269) 857-6041  
[www.saugatuckantiquepavilion.com](http://www.saugatuckantiquepavilion.com)  
[jim@sapantiques.com](mailto:jim@sapantiques.com)

**Rivers Ace Hardware**  
**Kelsey Klukos**  
 (616) 396-2378  
[www.riversace.com](http://www.riversace.com)  
[info@riversace.com](mailto:info@riversace.com)

**Wolverine Precision Financial Operations Group, LLC**  
**Melinda Kasper**  
 (316) 706-4295  
[www.wolverineprecisionfinops.com](http://www.wolverineprecisionfinops.com)  
[info@wolverineprecisionfinops.com](mailto:info@wolverineprecisionfinops.com)



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