



Q2 2025 Economic Development Report



FOX CITIES CHAMBER
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP



**NATIONAL
CHAMBER
OF THE YEAR**

The latest news and events

Luncheons update members on legislative issues



The Chamber held two legislative luncheons in Q2, drawing over 100 attendees. The first, in April, featured **Representative Dean Kaufert and Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim**, who discussed pressing legislative and economic issues impacting Wisconsin.

The second was a panel discussion in June on the current state of housing in the Fox Cities. It included **Wyatt Eichholz, Badger Institute; Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim; Jennifer Sunstrom, RANW; and Tom Rooney, Mark Winter Homes.**

Q2 Media partnerships helps spotlight member businesses

The Fox Cities Chamber and **WFRV-TV Local 5 Live** have an ongoing partnership that gives us a segment on their daily morning show twice a month. We always bring a member guest, to share their story, and in Q2 we showcased **Security Luebke Roofing, Walbec, NorthCoast Media Group, Appleton International Airport, and Lawrence University**. Additionally, we helped several educational partners secure PR coverage on a local podcast and radio show: **Miron, UA Local 400, and Lawrence University**

New workforce engagement initiative launches

To help employers address workplace challenges, the Fox Cities Chamber is launching **Immersion Fox Cities** - a program to help employees feel more connected, supported, and invested in our community.

Participant recruitment is now underway for the inaugural session, taking place Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13. This two-day experience is ideal for employees at any stage of their career and features curated sessions that highlight the region's history, education, volunteerism, arts, and recreation. Email jklingsberg@foxcc.net to register.

Chamber leadership program focuses on executive training

The Chamber launched a new leadership program in Q2 called Executive Elevate. Designed exclusively for C-suite leaders and senior executives, the five-month series offers space for personal growth, strategic insight, and peer-to-peer connection.

The program is facilitated by expert session leaders **Kim Underhill**, former Kimberly-Clark president; and **Dr. Dean Stewart**, President of Ascent Leadership. Participants will gain valuable tools to lead with clarity, balance, and vision in today's ever-evolving business environment.

On the cover: Top left, Legislative Luncheon; Right, Morning Mingle; Bottom, Future Fox Cities Career Expo.

Q1 Program and Event Updates

Leader Lab empowers leaders and cultures

In Q2, the Fox Cities Chamber successfully concluded its first 2025 Leader Lab cohorts, with 18 participants across the Fox Cities and Calumet County. The program received outstanding feedback, achieving a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 100. Building on this momentum, 22 new leaders enrolled in the second cohort of the year. Since its 2024 launch, Leader Lab has equipped over 70 professionals with tools to grow both personally and culturally as leaders.

Chamber alliance strengthens school to career connections

This quarter, the Emerging Talent Alliance engaged deeply with education-industry partnerships. In April, the group toured **Junior Achievement of the WI Fox Cities**, sparking new school visits and business interest in sponsoring a shop. In May, **Appleton East High School** hosted a panel on classroom-to-career programming featuring students and educators. June wrapped with a visit to **GPS Ed**, where members learned about an amplified education experience. The Alliance continues to build bridges between employers and tomorrow's workforce.

CEO Breakfast inspires local young professionals

At the Chamber's CEO Breakfast in May, local business leaders came together to share candid insights and real-world advice with the next generation of professionals. The conversation centered around the value of curiosity, resilience, and building strong relationships early in your career. It was an inspiring morning that left the 200 in attendance motivated to lead with purpose and confidence. Thank you to panelists **Shannon Alberts (Security - Luebke Roofing)**, **Chris Drees (Menasha Corp)**, **Sandy Fragale (OSMS)**, and **Patti Habeck (Feeding America Eastern WI)**.



L to R: Shannon Alberts, Chris Drees, Sandy Fragale, and Patti Habeck.

Large crowd attends Fox Talks seminar

Our Q2 Fox Talk, "Effective Management & Confident Leadership: A Practical Toolkit," was the most highly attended session since the series began, drawing 75 participants. Presenters **Matt Becker (Guident Business Solutions, LLC)**, **Paula Rauenbuehler (Leading UP)**, and **Christine Wales (Fox River Coaching)** provided attendees with actionable tools to drive growth, build high-impact teams, and confidently navigate challenging interactions. Participants left with greater clarity and the practical skills needed to unlock their potential, avoid common leadership pitfalls, and maintain the confidence to pursue their vision of success. Thank you to sponsor **Community First Credit Union!**

Business Attraction and Retention

FCCRP by the Numbers - Q2 2025

Connect Free Memberships - 66 Fox Cities small businesses joined the Chamber at its Connect Free level in Q2. To date, 899 small businesses have taken advantage of this unique free membership opportunity.

YP Memberships - Pulse Young Professionals saw continued membership growth in Q2. We welcomed 37 new Pulse members, bringing us a total of 845 active members. Throughout Q2 Pulse held programs for young professionals that included Coffee & Conversation, Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity for Earth Day and Fox Wolf Watershed, YP parenting events, Restaurant Club, Cocktails and Conversation, YP Appreciation/Summer Kick Off and CEO Breakfast.

Pulse Champions - We continue to see strong support from our local employers who recognize the impact young professionals have on their workplace and within the Fox Cities community. As of Q2, 12 Fox Cities businesses were participating as Champions of Young Professionals. By doing so, they're demonstrating their commitment to recruitment, retention and overall development of their young team members.

Employee Friendly Workplace: VT Industries was recognized as a Gold Level Employee Friendly Workplace featuring, bringing the total number of certified companies to 22. Additional congratulations go to **Capital Credit Union**, who moved from Gold to the Platinum Level in January!



2,000+ high school students learn about local career pathways at expo

The Future Fox Cities Career Expo, held April 15–16, welcomed more than 2,000 local students for an immersive career exploration experience. The day started with essential soft skills training, then students engaged directly with 80 local employers and higher education partners to learn about future career pathways.

The event sparked meaningful conversations, hands-on interactions, and a deeper understanding of the opportunities available right here in our region. It was a powerful step in connecting education to workforce and inspiring the next generation of talent.

Business Support: The Chamber held Business After Hours at three member businesses in the second quarter, providing the opportunity to showcase their company: **Security-Luebke Roofing, The Spa Team, and Johnson Financial.** Additionally, business milestone ribbon cuttings were held at **7 Brew Coffee, Oasis Senior Advisors Fox Valley, and Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center.**



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

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