

# CHAMBER CONNECTION

317 West Main Street  
Marshall, MN 56258  
507.532.4484  
www.marshallmn.org



Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce Connection to  
Local Business, Public Policy, Economic Development and Community Events



**Brad Gruhot,**  
Marshall Chamber  
President

The Marshall Area Chamber has many features and reasons why businesses become members. Advocacy is a big one right now as we partner with many other chambers in the State and work closely with the MN Chamber on issues such as replenishing the unemployment insurance fund with our massive budget surplus and staying off paid medical leave for businesses

when businesses are having a hard time finding workforce to begin with. The list goes on with some things that we are all working on collectively.

I was at a State of Manufacturing event a few weeks ago here in town. I was asked, how is my job different that it was five years ago? Clearly, the answer is workforce development.

What are businesses dealing with? Having to backfill the baby boomer generation. Depending on which website you look at, the baby boomer generation was/is 71.6 million people here in the U.S. This generation is now in the midst of retiring and COVID did not help matters with this either. Some retirements happened early because of COVID.

So, what are we all doing about it? There are a number of programs in the Marshall Area that we have our hands in. One is at SMSU. The program is called the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. According to Dr. George Taylor, who works with the program, this is the fastest growing major at the University. This program is working at grooming the next group of business leaders and with myself and other area leaders such as EDA Director, Lauren Deutz and Tom Hoff, Career and Technical Project Coordinator at SW/WC, we are going to try to keep them here locally. They have a large gathering next Friday here in town which includes industry roundtables with local business

owners as well as industry tours. Going to be a great agenda with entrepreneurship being the focus.

The other one that we are involved with is the CEO program. CEO in this case stands for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities and is a national program. This has been on the front page of the Independent in recent weeks. Marshall Public Schools as well as Murray County Schools have written this program into their curriculum. Through this program, students will get first hand experience with local businesses.

Here is a description from the local website: "Entrepreneurship education seeks to prepare people, especially youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. The CEO program is much more than a textbook course. Rather, students are immersed in real life learning experiences with the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes."

Besides these two programs, businesses utilize our courtesy job board. Not surprisingly, our job board currently has 105 job openings on it. Although that's a big number, that number is just a fraction of the jobs of what could be on there if all of our member businesses posted. If you know of anyone that is looking, please have them look at our job board under our community tab.

We will continue down this road of workforce development for years to come. We look forward to working with local partners such as SMSU, Marshall Public Schools, Careerforce, Private Industry Council, City of Marshall, SW/WC, Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Junior Achievement, plus others and of course our businesses in the area to solve the workforce demands.



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**AgriBusiness Sustainability Panel**  
Tuesday, March 22nd (12-1 PM)  
AmericInn (1406 E Lyon St)

Meet our Panelists:  
• Kelly Heather, District Conservationist with the US Department of Agriculture  
• Ben Dwire, Mentor with the MN Soil Health Coalition  
• Ken Fransky, Agronomy Services Manager at Central Crop Consulting

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Register online at [www.marshallmn.org](http://www.marshallmn.org)

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Find it all at [marshallmn.org](http://marshallmn.org)

## CHAMBER HAPPENINGS



Thanks to Tracey DeSmet for presenting at the February Young Professionals luncheon at the MERIT Center on "I show up as..."



Thanks to Professor Julie Walker for presenting at the March Women's Connect luncheon at SMSU on Communication as Women in the Workplace.



Thanks to Marshall Community Foundation for hosting Business During Hours at Bello Cucina.



State of the City Address was held on Wednesday, March 9th at SMSU, featuring Mayor Bob Byrnes and City Administrator, Sharon Hanson. They presented on the City's 2021 accomplishments, challenges and their vision for Marshall's future.

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