

May 2025



THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

Mayor Mark Olstad Delivers East Grand Forks Update

Mayor Mark Olstad partnered with The Chamber to host "Life Connected: A Civic Social" at the River Cinema Theater.

The Mayor highlighted a number of exciting developments in East Grand Forks, including the installation of a railroad quiet zone, the 20th anniversary of the Red River Recreational Campgrounds, recent renovations at LaFave Park, and proposed development of the Simplot property along the highway business corridor.



Pictured: Mark Olstad, Mayor East Grand Forks, MN



CHAMBER NEWS

Congresswoman Fedorchak Meets with Local Business



Pictured: Chamber President & CEO Barry Wilfahrt, Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak, and Mayor Brandon Bochenski.

U.S. Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak recently hosted a roundtable with Grand Forks business leaders to discuss the impact of tariffs on local enterprises.

Discussions centered on how tariffs are affecting input costs and supply chains. Several businesses noted positive outcomes, including the return of some manufacturing operations to Grand Forks and other domestic locations. However, rising raw material costs are hindering expansion efforts and slowing both production and hiring decisions. This ongoing uncertainty continues to impact business development and growth.

The Chamber appreciates Congresswoman Fedorchak's attention to economic and business issues affecting our region.

CHAMBER NEWS

ND Legislative Session Update

The Property Tax Bill was the most significant issue of this legislative session. For business owners, the inclusion of legislative intent to provide commercial property tax relief in the 2027 session was perhaps the most impactful development.

Additionally, increasing the residential tax credit from \$500 to as much as \$1,650 annually is expected to inject considerable funds into the local economy.



**North Dakota
Legislative Branch**

However, local governments may face tough decisions when preparing their 2026 budgets due to the implications of these changes.

Stay tuned for a full recap of Team Grand Forks' legislative successes, arriving in your inbox later this month.

INFORM PROMOTE ADVOCATE CONNECT EDUCATE

Your Chamber Working For You

While you are hard at work, your Chamber of Commerce is working for you. The Chamber GF/EGF is a 5-star accredited chamber. We inform, promote, advocate, connect and educate our members and community.

**SAND STEEL
BUILDING CO.**

Emerado, ND
701-594-4435
www.sandsteelbuilding.com

Metal Building Construction
Steel Fabrication
Millwright Services



CHAMBER NEWS

First-Line Supervisor Seminar Draws 140+ Attendees

Over 140 professionals attended our Supervisor Training Seminar, led by national trainer Bill Drury, who received top marks for his dynamic session.

Each year, the Chamber hosts a national expert to deliver valuable professional development to our members. We also offer monthly brown bag seminars on key topics for small business leaders—join us!



Pictured: Bill Drury presenting to the attendees of the half day Seminar.



Visit with Barry

Share your business challenges and success with Barry.

Drop me an email. I would love to stop by your business for a visit.

Barry@gochamber.org

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber President and CEO





CHAMBER NEWS

Chamber Tours and Talks a Huge Success

The Chamber Tours and Talks event was a resounding success. A diverse group of members visited six local businesses to hear their stories, observe their operations, and celebrate their contributions to the regional economy.

The daylong tour was designed to showcase business success stories, share organizational insights, and offer participants a first-hand look at the vibrant and varied business landscape in our communities.

The Chamber plans to offer this event biennially moving forward.



Pictured: Tours and Talks attendees at Bully Brew Roastery.



Pictured: Tours and Talks attendees at The Ralph.




Pictured: Tours and Talks attendees at True North Equipment.

Membership Drive to Conclude with Wrap-Up Party on May 21

Nearly 40 Chamber volunteers have been working hard to sign up new chamber members. There are no horseshoes or hand grenades here! We're taking a targeted approach to businesses and owners who will be excited to add to our value, as well as receive great value by being a part of our organization.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the Northern Valley with almost 1,100 members. If you know of a business who should be a member of The Chamber, please contact Doug Iverson at The Chamber so our volunteers can approach them about becoming a member.

SADDLE UP FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE RODEO!



April 11
through
May 16

WRAP-UP PARTY: MAY 21

During the drive, our volunteers will be contacting non-chamber member businesses about joining. If you know of a business our teams should visit, let Doug know ASAP!

Top **TEN** Chamber Membership Benefits

- 1. New Business Contacts** – Networking and new business contacts will help your business grow. With more than 100 chamber programs and events, you'll have no problem adding to your contact base.
- 2. Credibility** – Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
- 3. Leadership Development** – The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
- 4. Community Commitment** – Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.
- 5. Referrals** – The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.
- 6. Publicity and Exposure** – Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.
- 7. Marketing & Advertising** – Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.
- 8. A Healthy Local Economy** – Be a part of a group that is committed to creating a strong local economy to keep our business momentum moving forward.
- 9. Gain a Voice in Government** – The Chamber is your representative on a local, regional, state and national level. With over 1100 members representing thousands of area employees, The Chamber speaks with a strong voice for our business community on issues affecting your business.
- 10. Partnership** – You will be a part of an organization whose mission is to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.

FREE WEBINAR

UAS MAGAZINE WEBINAR SERIES



NORTH DAKOTA'S AEROSPACE EDGE A National Webinar Series

Join Us for a Live Webinar May 29th @ 2:00 PM CDT

**FREE WEBINAR
Presented by**



NORTH DAKOTA'S AEROSPACE EDGE A National Webinar Series

Airpower Evolution: CCA, the Golden Dome, and Regional Defense Innovation in Grand Forks

Thursday, May 29, 2025 | 2:00 PM CDT

Cost: FREE

[REGISTER HERE](#)

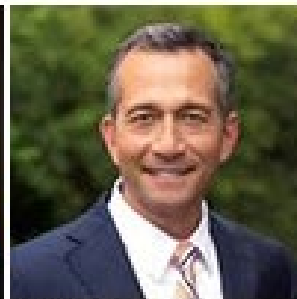
Presenters:



Moderator:
John Nelson
COO, UAS
Magazine



Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula USAF (Ret.)
Dean
Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Studies



Brig. Gen. Houston Cantwell USAF (RET.)
Senior Resident Fellow
Airpower Studies at the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies



Heather Penney
Senior Resident Fellow
Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

Join Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, USAF (Ret.), Dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, as he leads a distinguished panel featuring Brig. Gen. Houston Cantwell, USAF (Ret.), Maj. Gen. Larry "Stutz" Stutzriem, USAF (Ret.), and Heather Penney, of the Mitchell Institute. Together, they will explore the dynamic growth of North Dakota's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) ecosystem and its critical impact on U.S. national security.

Lt. Gen. Deptula will kick off the session with an overview of the rising importance of UAVs in modern defense strategy, the established UAS infrastructure at Grand Forks, and new opportunities emerging through initiatives like Golden Dome. Following this, Brig. Gen. Cantwell will expand on the strategic role of the Arctic domain and ongoing efforts to increase Department of Defense and Congressional awareness of its significance. Heather Penney will conclude with a discussion on the growing emphasis on Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) programs and the potential for Grand Forks to become a leading hub in this next phase of UAS development.

This webinar will offer valuable insights into how North Dakota's innovation is shaping the future of aerospace power and Arctic security



Register for Webinar

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the **Y**

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Support your employees' health and well-being with BCBSND.me. This digital hub helps you find care providers, navigate benefits, access customer services, view ID cards, and more. With the largest provider network in the state, it's easy for your team to get the care they need, wherever they are.

See how at BCBSND.com/me



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Scan or visit
nd.und.edu/forever-und
to register!

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FOUNDATION
LEARNERS IN ACTION



Fly Local Fly GFK



DELTA
www.delta.com

allegiant
www.allegiantair.com

GFK
Grand Forks International Airport

www.gfkairport.com

www.gfkairport.com www.delta.com
www.allegiantair.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bloom Beauty Bar

2424 32nd Ave S, Ste 201A, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-436-1752

ndbloombeautybar.com

At Bloom Beauty Bar, we don't believe in changing who you are, but helping you become the most polished version of yourself. We opened in Grand Forks in 2018 and have recently expanded to a larger location to help serve our amazing clients and friends. Bloom offers a variety of esthetic services, including lashes, brows, skincare, body waxing, event makeup, and spray tans.

We're excited to help you become the most polished version of yourself.



Cricket Wireless

1725 32nd Ave S, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-739-8568

www.cricketwireless.com

Cricket Wireless has super fast and reliable service and incredibly affordable and locked in prices! No contracts, no overage fees and they even have coverage in Canada and Mexico! There's better things to spend money on than expensive phone bills with Cricket Wireless!



S&A Powersports and Diesel

361 Rice St, PO Box 45, Mekinock, ND 58258

218-779-9735

www.facebook.com/SAPowersportsGarageLLC/

S&A Powersports and Diesel is located just west of Grand Forks in the small community of Mekinock. At S&A, our mission is to provide expert service, reliable repairs, and customized solutions for all things powersports and diesel pickups. We are committed to enhancing the performance and longevity of our customers' vehicles with top-quality craftsmanship, personalized care, and a passion for powering adventures.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jiffy Lube

1780 S Columbia Rd, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-1816

Jiffylube.com

Jiffy Lube is dedicated to helping you keep your vehicle running right by providing preventive maintenance services at more than 2,000 locations nationwide, including Grand Forks on Columbia.

Services provided include oil changes, brakes, batteries, tire services, and more vehicle maintenance services. Want to do it yourself? Go to our website and find “Tips In A Jiffy!”



TEARS Organization

PO Box 5006, Grand Forks, ND 58206-5006

tearsgfn.org

TEARS started in 2004 after our CEO/Founder Sandy Kovar's son, Michael, died by suicide in August of 2003. She identified the lack of resources and information in our community to support those who had experienced a death by suicide. Sandy and co-founder, Marilyn Ripplinger, work together with a volunteer team to provide education opportunities to our community on the signs and symptoms of someone who may be struggling and to provide resources. The monthly connection group, which was started in 2006, created a safe place to grieve, connect with others who shared a similar experience, and create a network of support.

In January of 2024, TEARS obtained our official non-profit status, and we continue to offer education opportunities throughout the year that raise awareness about suicide prevention and work towards decreasing the stigma attached to this type of loss. Our TEARS Talk Event is offered in May during Mental Health Awareness month, and the TEARS Talk & Walk occurs in September during Suicide Awareness month.

Our TEARS Comfort Kits are available to families and provide ways to remember and honor their loved ones who have died by suicide.

For more information, visit TEARSGFND.org or email us at

TEARSGFND@gmail.com



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Silver Dawn Books

2600 DeMers Ave, Suite 101, Grand Forks, ND 58201

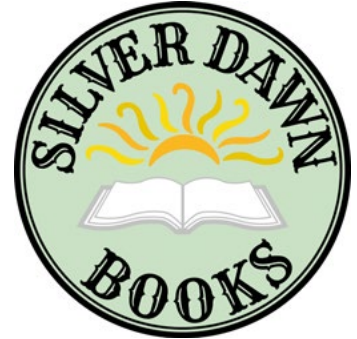
701-738-8025

www.silverdawnbooks.com

Silver Dawn Books is your friendly neighborhood bookstore here in Grand Forks.

As a locally family-owned and operated independent bookstore, we stock both new and used books. We offer a highly curated book selection, trained staff to help you find just what you're looking for, and assurance that every dollar you spend is spent locally. We also have an extensive local author selection that features authors from across North Dakota and Minnesota! Come on by and check us out. We specialize in bookplates for well-known and local authors - 100s to choose from to add to a favorite or new purchase.

Note: we have moved to a new location - 2600 DeMers Ave Suite 101.



A Johnston Therapy, PLLC

600 Demers Ave, Ste 303, Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-757-0292

www.ajohnstontherapy.com

Located in Grand Forks, ND, A Johnston Therapy, PLLC is a dedicated team of mental health professionals offering individual therapy for children, adolescents, and adults. In addition to traditional psychotherapy, we also provide professional coaching to support personal and career growth, clinical supervision for new therapists, and private practice consulting for clinicians looking to build, refine, or expand their own practices.

Our therapists draw from a wide range of therapeutic modalities, including psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, person-centered, strength-based, and narrative therapies. We also integrate mindfulness-based approaches, Somatic Experiencing (SE™), Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART), and Family Systems Therapy.

We specialize in working with complex trauma, codependency, workplace stress, life transitions, domestic violence, family conflict, depression, anxiety, parenting challenges, relationship concerns, and more. Whether you're seeking emotional healing, personal development, professional support, or guidance in your own clinical journey, we're here to walk alongside you every step of the way.

A JOHNSTON
THERAPY, PLLC

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dakota Medical Foundation

4321 20th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58104

701-271-0263

dakmed.org

Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) is a Fargo-based health foundation working to build the most generous region on the planet by equipping people, charities, and communities to grow stronger and improve quality of life.

DMF leads several key initiatives, including Giving Hearts Day, the nation's longest-running giving day, which has raised over \$226 million for more than 600 area charities since 2008. Lend A Hand Up helps neighbors support families in crisis by hosting free benefits and auctions with a 20% boost added to each donation. Lead with Light is a leadership movement helping people lead with purpose, hope, and generosity. The North Dakota Optometric Foundation advances eye health through Vision Start missions, offering free eye exams at childcare facilities for children ages 4–6 to detect lazy eye and boost classroom performance. The North Dakota Dental Foundation improves oral health access through outreach efforts like Bright Futures in Dentistry, Dental Rental, Kids Without Cavities, Mission of Mercy, and 1 million Brushes.



Delta Advisory Group

375 2nd Ave N, Grand Forks, ND 58203

701-670-7761

www.uas-insight.com

Delta Advisory Group (DAG) is a commercially focused consulting company concentrating on emerging UAS platforms and capabilities. We use our vast operational experience, market knowledge, and extensive network to create UAS solutions that deliver real results.

Our experience spans the commercial, military, research, and development aspects of the UAS market, allowing us to provide both depth and breadth to our client's mission. We effectively tap industry experts and successful product owners to ensure applicable world-class market analysis and industry knowledge. Whether it is a new payload implementation, navigating the complexities of regulatory compliance, or integrating new technology in a dynamic UAS market, DAG brings unparalleled experience and expertise to your venture.

DAG proudly calls Grand Forks home and operates out of The Hive UAS Tech Accelerator.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Broken Drum Bar & Grill

1503 N Washington St, Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-772-9271

A staple in the Grand Forks community, Broken Drum is known for its food as much as anything else. With a decently sized menu and friendly service, as well as entertainment to go along with that, the Broken Drum is a great place to relax with friends and enjoy some great food and refreshing beverages!



VYBE Wellness

2860 10th Ave N, Ste 150D, Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-732-0399

Vybenow.com

VYBE Wellness opened in December 2023. Located in Grand Forks, ND, near Ralph Engelstad Arena, we specialize in Therapeutic Deep Tissue massage and view massage as healthcare. We focus on improving your health by listening to your concerns and then developing a massage plan to help you. Even if you have never received a massage before or are under the impression that deep tissue massage is going to hurt, we encourage you to visit with our licensed massage therapist as we practice and believe that even a Therapeutic Deep Tissue massage should not cause you more pain. Our style incorporates relaxation, therapeutic, and deep tissue to truly provide you with an effective yet relaxing massage.

With over 9 years of experience, our Massage Therapist Jason specializes in our Therapeutic Deep Tissue style, but also offers Heated Bamboo Massage, Massage Cupping, Kinesiology Taping, and coming soon in 2025, Table Thai Massage.

We also believe in self-care, so we carry some self-care tools, are an authorized retailer of Real Time Pain Relief Cream, started our own line of products (VYBE Apothecary), and currently carry foaming hand soap, bath bombs, bath salts, shower steamers, brown sugar scrubs, and soy blend candles. Sometimes, self-care is as easy as soaking in a warm bath and lighting a candle, enjoying the relaxation and downtime.

Visit our website vybenow.com to schedule appointments, view availability, purchase gift cards, and even shop our products online!



VYBE WELLNESS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GF Shutter Shots

701-214-8328

gfshuttershots.client-gallery.com

GF Shutter Shots is your go-to partner for high-quality real estate photography in the greater Grand Forks region. Specializing in capturing both indoor and outdoor images, we help Real Estate Agents, short-term rental hosts, hotel managers, and local businesses showcase their properties with stunning visual appeal. Our expertly composed photos highlight the unique features of every space, making listings more attractive, memorable, and market-ready. Whether you're selling a home, marketing a rental, or promoting a hospitality venue, GF Shutter Shots delivers images that stand out and drive results.

GF Shutter Shots – Picture perfect, every time.



7 Brew

3341 32nd Ave S, Grand Forks, ND 58201

7brew.com

7 Brew is a rapidly growing coffee brand known for revolutionizing drive-thru coffee service, offering hand-crafted beverages, exceptional speed, and a positive customer experience. With a focus on community involvement, friendly employees, and relationship-building with local industries, 7 Brew aims to be a positive contributor wherever it sets up shop.

With over 370 stands nationwide and more than 20,000 unique drink options, there is something from everyone at 7 Brew. From classic coffees to lattes, teas, smoothies, and their signature 7 Energy drink, all beverages are customizable to suit every customer's taste.

The Grand Forks location will be opening near the end of May. Let's meet soon!



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Hosted by Rydell Auto Center

Location: Rydell Chevrolet 2700 S Washington St, GF

Thursday, May 15, 2025

4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Rydell Auto Center invites all Chamber members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

**Parking: main lot available until full, Complimentary hors d'oeuvres,
Cash Bar, great door prizes.
Progressive cash drawing is at \$1200.**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.

You might even win **\$1200** in our Progressive Cash drawing!

We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Remember, BAH is FREE for all Chamber members! Is your employer a Chamber member? That means YOU ARE TOO!

See you Thursday, May 15, 2025 at Business After Hours!

*Because of the nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

Thank you to North Dakota Museum of Art for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

April 1, To April 30, 2025

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber GF/EGF.

A & L Potato Co. Inc.
Achieve Therapy & Fitness
Acme Rents (Heavy Equipment)
ACME TOOLS
American Legion Post 6
Amundson, Roger D.D.S.
Assurity Finance & Development, LLC
Cancer Center of North Dakota
CleanTech
Dakota Peat & Equipment
Dance, Etc!
Deek's Pizza
DJ Colter Agency Inc. American Family
Insurance
Driscoll's Auto Service
Ellingson Companies
Empire 1
Empire Arts Center
Forks Frame up
Grand Cities Games
Grand Cities Painting and Drywall
Grand Sky Development Company, LLC
H & R Block - S. Washington
Heyer Engineering Inc.

Hugo's Wine & Spirits - 32nd
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - Columbia Rd
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - East Grand Forks
Lifestyle Storage
Moore Engineering Inc
Newman Outdoor Advertising
NextEra Energy Resources
Northland Community & Technical College
Obernel Engineering
R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc.
Rhombus Guys
SafetySpect Inc.
Sam's Club
Service Credit Union
SIN BIN Kitchen Bar Casino
State Farm - Andrew Bergee
Stegman Holdings LLC DBA Studio South
Strive Life Grand Forks
Town Square Farmers Market
United States Postal Service - Grand Forks, ND
Walmart-32nd Ave #1545



of U.S. adults agree that their local chamber of commerce is a **trusted resource and partner** for businesses.



feel that their local chamber has an impact on **growing businesses locally.**

90%

believe that their local chamber has an impact on **growing the local economy.**



say that their local chamber has an impact on **addressing challenges** within their community.

LIVE IN CONCERT

STIX

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Loverboy

NOVEMBER 11
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LEVEL UP YOUR BUSINESS

BUSINESS BANKING | CARDS
TREASURY MANAGEMENT | LOANS



live first®

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Taylor Monson, CFP®
Financial Advisor

4700 S Washington St Suite A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-9243

AMBASSADORS MEETING



The Chamber Ambassadors extend a warm welcome to new businesses, actively participate in celebrating grand openings and special events, and engage in various Chamber activities.

The Chamber Ambassadors play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant business community by actively encouraging and supporting new and fellow members. Their mission is centered around creating opportunities for businesses to thrive while simultaneously contributing to the community's well-being.

Their dedication involves promoting The Chamber to potential members, highlighting the benefits of membership, and showcasing the community as an excellent place to live and do business. Ambassadors commit to attending monthly meetings and participating in diverse events throughout the year, such as Ribbon Cuttings, Business After Hours, and Chamber activities. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of The Chamber and its members.

The Ambassadors meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

At the April 21st Ambassador meeting. The Ambassadors enjoyed an informative lunch with updates from David Kuharenko, City of GF Engineer at Eagles Crest.

Join the team. Become a Chamber Ambassador!

Being an Ambassador provides opportunities for you to promote your business, and network while having fun and doing something great for your community!

(Your business must be a current Chamber member to participate)

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please contact Doug Iverson, doug@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271.

RIBBON CUTTING

The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

If you are interested, please contact Doug at **772-7271** or **Doug@gochamber.org** to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

Runnings

1508 S Washington St., Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are Runnings Employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

Silver Dawn Books

2600 Demers Ave, Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are employees of Silver Dawn Books, along with The Chamber Ambassadors.



RIBBON CUTTING

Meg-A-Latte

2990 32nd Ave S, Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are Meg-A-Latte Employees, guests and The Chamber Ambassadors.

VitellaCare

4399 S Columbia Rd, Grand Forks, ND



Pictured are employees of VitellaCare, along with The Chamber Ambassadors.

MEMBER NEWS

First International Bank & Trust Promotes Andy Byron to Branch President



Andy Byron

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) has announced the promotion of Andy Byron to Branch President of its Grand Forks location. With more than seven years at the bank and nearly two decades in the banking industry, Andy brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to serving the local community.

Andy began his banking career in May 2000 and has since held various roles in the industry, gaining extensive knowledge in lending, financial management, and customer relations.

Since joining FIBT seven years ago, he has played a key role in fostering strong relationships with customers and contributing to the bank's continued growth.

"I'm honored to step into this leadership role at our Grand Forks branch," said Andy. "This community means a lot to me, and I look forward to continuing to support our customers and businesses with personalized banking solutions."

As Branch President, Andy will oversee daily operations, lead the branch's team, and work to strengthen the bank's presence in the Grand Forks area. His promotion reflects the bank's commitment to investing in its employees and recognizing leadership from within.

For more information about First International Bank & Trust and its services, visit <http://www.fibt.com>



MEMBER NEWS

Next Northland Community & Technical College President Named



Sharon Olson

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees has appointed Shari Olson as the president of Northland.

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities has named Shari Olson to serve as president of Northland Community & Technical College. The appointment becomes effective immediately.

"Dr. Olson has tremendous understanding of the region and of what makes Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks amazing and distinctive from each other," said Scott Olson, Minnesota State chancellor. "During her year as interim president, Dr. Olson has shown a real commitment towards shared governance and towards serving the communities of northwest Minnesota. It's clear that she is the right choice to continue to lead Northland."

Dr. Olson is an experienced educator committed to the role that comprehensive and technical colleges play in our society and brings with her a passion for continuous learning, self-improvement and shared governance.

Dr. Olson has been serving as interim president at Northland since July 2024. As interim president, Dr. Olson has been providing strategic and operational leadership and working with stakeholders to advance the college's mission during this transition.

Previously, she served as president in the Maricopa County Community College District at South Mountain Community College, (AZ) from 2011 until her retirement in 2022. Under her leadership, the college achieved several important milestones, including a 10-year reaffirmation of Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation, securing a Department of Education Title V grant of nearly \$3 million, receiving HLC approval to offer a Bachelor of Science program in Behavioral Science, opening the SMCC Science Complex after a \$19 million remodeling, and recognition by the Aspen Institute as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges four times from 2015 to 2021.

Prior appointments include serving as interim president of Anoka Technical College from 2010 to 2011 where her many accomplishments included facilitating the creation of the college master technology plan and redesigning the organizational structure to maximize employee talent and create efficiencies. In 2011, she was recognized by the Minnesota State College Student Association (now called LeadMN) with the President of the Year award.

She also served Minnesota State as System Director of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) from 2009 to 2010 where she designed and led a systemwide, multi-faceted project related to the federal stimulus legislation.

In addition, Dr. Olson served as president of Eastern Wyoming College from 2007 to 2008, where she led a strategic planning process and instituted a new organizational structure.

From 1995 to 2007, she served Northland Community & Technical College in several capacities including vice president of planning and administrative services, vice president of outreach and planning, and vice president of outreach and technology. Her many accomplishments included securing a \$7.8 million capital bonding project for Nursing, spearheading the revitalization of classroom space for a new degree program in Automated Systems Technology, facilitating the creation of Digi-Key University (a corporate college), and collaboratively developing several new programs including an Associate of Applied Science degree program in Electronic Technology and Robotic Technology, a new Associate of Science degree program for working adults in Manufacturing Technology, and several credit-based manufacturing certificates for working adults.

MEMBER NEWS

Anchor Marketing Adds Wendy McCord As Head Of Business Development



Wendy McCord

Anchor Marketing has hired Wendy McCord as its new head of business development. McCord will primarily be responsible for seeking new clients, initiating new partnerships and finding untapped opportunities for Anchor Marketing. She and the rest of the Anchor Marketing team will work with these clients to improve their communication (both external and internal) and build the success of their overall brands.

McCord brings more than 20 years in the marketing industry to Anchor Marketing, mostly working with agencies in the Fargo, ND, area. Her experience includes developing marketing strategies for clients utilizing integrated campaigns, developing brands, selling and managing websites, conducting research, executing public relations campaigns and coordinating outreach activities. She has worked with clients ranging from sole proprietors and small businesses to government (federal and state) agencies and Fortune 500 companies.

"Wendy has the energy and the experience to connect with prospects and current clients alike," says Greg "Hal" Halliday, Anchor Marketing's president. "She knows branding, she knows business and she knows how to make the most out of great ideas."

Anchor Marketing is a brand-building agency located in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was founded in 1997. To learn more about Anchor Marketing or {code} Roadies, its web development subsidiary, visit anchorsaverb.com.



Building Your Leadership Mosaic

Leadership isn't one-size-fits-all—it's a mosaic. Each of us brings unique values, experiences, and styles that shape how we lead. In this interactive session, participants will explore what makes their leadership distinct, identify areas for growth, and learn how to intentionally piece together a well-rounded leadership identity.

This session is designed to inspire self-awareness, celebrate differences, and challenge each participant to take ownership of their leadership journey. Whether you're a seasoned executive or a rising leader, you'll walk away with new clarity, confidence, and connections.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Brown Bag Seminar

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

Presented by...

Andy Armacost, President, University of North Dakota

Andrew P. Armacost officially began his tenure as the University of North Dakota's 13th President on June 1, 2020.

He previously served as Dean of the Faculty at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, retiring in the rank of Brigadier General in 2019.

As UND's President, Armacost has led the campus to national recognition, including being designated a "Carnegie R1" institution, which places it among the top research universities in the nation.

Armacost currently serves on the boards of the UND Alumni Association and Foundation, the Falcon Foundation, the Energy and Environmental Research Center Foundation, the UND Aerospace Foundation, and the UND Center for Innovation Foundation. He currently chairs the Missouri Valley Football Conference and the Board of Directors for the National Collegiate Hockey Conference. He also serves on the advisory board for the VOICE of collegiate Esports.

In his academic career, Armacost is an award-winning educator and researcher in Operations Research, with international recognition from the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences and the Military Operations Research Society. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the AF Commendation Medal, and the AF Achievement Medal.

A native of Glendale, Wisconsin, Armacost earned his undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering from Northwestern University and his master's and PhD in Operations Research from MIT.

SOLD OUT Registration is available online only and is limited to 32 attendees.

If you have questions, please contact the Chamber. doug@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

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kimberlys@gochamber.org

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info@gochamber.org

tfetsch@gochamber.org

Doug Iverson

Director of Membership Engagement & Development

doug@gochamber.org

