

FALL 2025 WORKFORCE CONNECTION

SINCE 1948
LAKEVILLE
Chamber of Commerce
& Tourism



Engaging our Future leaders

The Chamber is connecting our future workforce to meaningful career exploration and exposure opportunities by partnering with ISD194 and our business community.

Through events, mentorships, and hands-on experiences, we help students discover career pathways and build relationships with local employers to support future success in our community.

"Watching you grow has been the highlight of leading a team. Huge thanks to the Lakeville Chamber for the introduction. Kelsey, you've shown that with real work, support, and mentorship, people rise. Keep getting uncomfortable, keep growing—I'm cheering you on every step of the way."

- Angie Wittke, Chief Revenue Officer, Blue Net, Inc.

I was completely wrong about internships

"I thought internships were just grunt work, but my Sales and Marketing internship at Blue Net was completely different.

From day one, I contributed to real campaigns, revised content for clients, and helped shape strategies in industries I knew little about, like IT and manufacturing. I've learned that curiosity, asking questions, and a supportive team matter more than expertise. Getting to support manufacturers and see what keeps a business running has given me a whole new appreciation for how meaningful this work is. What's even better is that I'm just getting started."

- Kelsey Henkensiefken, Lakeville South Graduate, U of M student



Thank you Lakeville Works Program Donors

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FUTURE 101: Preparing for Life After High School

The Chamber and ISD194 held our annual Future 101 night in September. Whether preparing for high school, exploring college options, or looking at career pathways, Future 101 is designed to help students in grades 8-12, and their families, understand the steps and access the tools for success.

In addition to a one-hour resource fair, families can attend three of the eight breakout sessions. Members of the local business community sit on panels in these breakouts to talk about their jobs, personal experiences and industries.

- Creating your high school plan
- Financial aid, scholarships & FAFSA
- College selection (2-year & 4-year)
- College financial readiness & planning
- Test prep: ACT, SAT, ASVAB, Accuplacer
- Career exploration & in-demand careers
- Direct-to-workforce pathways
- Launch Pad: Your future starts here, tips and tricks to decide what comes next

This annual information event is free and open to all families. Thank you to our 2025 event sponsor, Think Bank.



Pan-O-Prog 2025

Touch-a-Truck

Lakeville Works sponsored the inaugural Touch-A-Truck event in downtown Lakeville, just prior to Cruise Night, during Pan-O-Prog.

With over 20 trucks, trailers and tractors - little ones got to touch, climb on, press buttons and pretend to drive these mighty machines.

Posters highlighted careers connected to each truck, and the perks that come with a career in each trade.

Touch-A-Truck 2026 will be held on Friday, July 10, 2026.

Are you listed here... and here?... If not, join today!



Leadership Lakeville

Leadership Lakeville 2025-2026 kicked off in September. Over the nine-month program, our class will meet city, county and state leaders; participate in professional development sessions; tour city facilities; complete four hours of community service and will spend time at the State Capitol.

Thank you to the City of Lakeville for their partnership and to Loeffler Construction for sponsoring the series.



\$31,000 awarded in 2025 to Lakeville high school seniors

Named Scholarships

The Lakeville Area Chamber Foundation offers an opportunity for our Chamber member businesses to provide local scholarships through our 501(c)(3).

This program is ideal for businesses looking to establish a scholarship program but lacking the necessary personnel or affiliated nonprofit to manage it. The Foundation will collect the applications, choose the recipient and pay the institution. One hundred percent of your donation will be awarded to the student, in your name.

“Through the Chamber, we were introduced to Jonathan, a UW-Stout student seeking a summer internship in IT. Jonathan was an excellent fit for our company, contributing valuable and up-to-date insights to our IT team. The internship was a very positive experience for both our business and the student.”
- Dana Turner, HR Manager, HOBO/Chemquest/Triton



Thank you Lakeville teachers!

It's that time of year again! The Chamber, and members of our Foundation, visit each school in the district every school year to bring treats and thank our teachers for their efforts in shaping and educating our next generation of workforce.

We share the ways in which we can partner with them throughout the year - including classroom speakers, project-based learning assistance, job shadows, tours, mentorships, scholarships and grants.

Thank you to Hy-Vee Lakeville for donating the food and to Lakeview Bank for sponsoring the series.

MN Mandate Compliance Sessions



In October we partnered with two of our member attorneys, and one financial advisor, to host two mandate compliance information sessions to help our local employers and HR teams navigate Paid Family Leave, ESST, and about a dozen other recent and upcoming state employment mandates.

SAVE THE DATE

January 14, 2026

Our Lakeville 8th grade students will participate in the annual **Stepping into your Future** event to explore activities related to elective classes and clubs in high school that can lead to future careers.

March 21, 2026

The Young Entrepreneur Section (YES!) at the Chamber Home & Community Expo is open to young entrepreneurs under the age of 18.

April 28, 2026

The Lakeville North and South **High School Job Fairs** are free and open to any local business hiring high school students. Kim@LakevilleChamber.org



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"The Lakeville Chamber's connections make a real difference.
Their referral turned into a great hire for our team."

— Jeff Mortensen, President & CEO, 360 Communities



JOIN US!



Are you HIRING?

Ask about posting your open jobs
on LakevilleWorks.org!

Are you LOOKING?

Check out the full-time, part-time and
student jobs on LakevilleWorks.org!

Are you LEADING?

Ask us about Leadership Lakeville!
Applications open each spring.

Are you SERVING?

Considering volunteering your time in
classrooms, mentorships, job shadows!

Info@LakevilleChamber.org
952.469.2020

Your next superstar could be just
around the corner...**LITERALLY**



PROGRAM DONORS: BTD Manufacturing, Dakota Electric Association, Delmar Company, Dick's Sanitation, Hearth & Home Technologies, Gunner's Garage, HOBO-Chemquest-Triton, Loeffler Construction & Consulting, QA1 Precision Products, Schmitt & Sons, Xcel Energy