



Wright County
Economic Development Partnership

Partnering for Opportunities

Annual Report

A photograph of a house with a porch, partially obscured by trees and foliage. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with the sun visible on the left side of the frame.

2025



Letter From the 2025 Chair, Patrick Baumgard, Premier Bank

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2025 Board of Directors



Patrick Baumgard,
Chair,
Premier Bank



Rob Stark,
Vice Chair,
Edward Jones



Randy Voeller,
Treasurer,
CorTrust Bank



Scott Johnson,
Past Chair,
Xcel Energy



Darek Vetsch,
Wright County
Commissioner



Phil Kern,
EDA Rep.,
City of Delano



Gene Janikula,
Woodland
Township



Tim Zipoy,
Central MN Jobs &
Training Services



Marc Weigle,
City of
St. Michael



Mike Melton,
CADG,
Intent Built



Kelly Hinnenkamp,
City of
Annandale



Sheila Zachman,
Commercial
Realty Solutions



Brian Nutter,
Wright Technical
Center



Chris Barta,
Franklin Outdoor
Advertising



Nadine Schoen,
Wright County
Commissioner



James Conely,
Wright Hennepin
CEA



Letter From the Director, Missy Meidinger, Executive Director

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Value & Support Statement: What is it That The Partnership Does?

Our Mission

To support a healthy and diverse environment for businesses and residents that provides employment opportunities and enhances the overall economic vitality of Wright County.

WCEDP fulfills its mission by providing technical and financial assistance to businesses in Wright County and those looking to locate in Wright County. The Partnership also provides economic development assistance to the 16 communities. WCEDP is a non-profit corporation financially supported by local community governments, the county, and area businesses dedicated to supporting and creating a sustainable economic profile in Wright County. We maintain a powerful and resourceful website at www.wrightpartnership.org.

We Fulfill Our Mission Working Alongside Our Partners Through These Key Areas:

- Business Development
- Site Selection and Promotion
- Marketing the County
- Financial Packaging (Administer Wright County Enterprise Loan Fund)
- Liaison with Regional & State Organizations
- Business Consulting
- Capacity Building Seminars/Workshops
- Workforce Pathways
- CEO
- Direct Networking

2025 Financial Summary



*Wright County communities and
businesses are prepared for growth!
We invite you to explore the opportunity
of working together with us to further
our impact!*

The certified public accounting firm Schlenner Wenner & Co. prepares WCEDP's annual tax filings.

Annual Events & Fundraisers

Annual Meeting

This annual January event is free for members and features a hosted breakfast along with an engaging keynote speaker. During the program, we nominate the upcoming year's Board of Directors slate, recognize our Member Investors, and reflect on highlights from the past year. We also honor outstanding individuals and organizations with awards in the following categories: Outstanding Start-Up Entrepreneur, High Economic Vitality Business, Outstanding Member Investor, and Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

A special thank you to the Awards Task Force for their important work in selecting this year's recipients.



2025 Outstanding Citizen of
Wright County, Bo Nelson



2025 Outstanding Partner,
City of Monticello



2025 High Vitality Business,
Functional Industries



2025 Start-Up Entrepreneur,
AVA



Legislative Update

In 2025 we continued to host the legislative update in partnership with the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau.



Annual Golf Event

The 23rd Annual WCEDP Golf Event in 2025 was another success, with a great turnout and high spirits—even a little rain couldn't stop the fun. Thank you to our Premier Sponsor, Sherburne Bank, along with our volunteers, golfers, and Golf Task Force for making the 2025 event such a success.

We are excited to announce our 2026 Premier Sponsor, Guardian Angels!



PFML Event

Over 200 attendees participated in the October 1st MN Paid Leave training in Buffalo through a partnership of MN DEED, WCEDP, the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau, and area Chambers.



Holiday Social

The Holiday Networking Social strengthened connections among Wright County's business and community leaders. Save the date for December 10th, 2026 at the St. Michael Cinema for this great annual event partnered with CRS.

THANK YOU!

Our Local Communities



Our Local Chambers



Our Collaborating Partners



Our Collaborating Partners



Valued **Partner** Benefits of Wright County Economic Development Partnership

Providing site promotion, marketing and location availability.

Access to business development, entrepreneurial support, and financial resources.

Retaining valuable existing workforce talent and employers.

Technical expertise for business expansions and relocations.

Networking and marketing Wright County to build a healthy economy.

Events offering valuable information on relevant topics.

Recruiting and attracting new opportunities for a higher quality of life.

As a WCEDP Partner, your organization will be featured in our online Partner Directory, including a direct link from our website to yours.

For more information on becoming a WCEDP Partner, visit www.wrightpartnership.org or contact our office at 763-496-5632 today.

Partner News



Brian Nutter is Named New Executive Director of Wright Technical Center



Landscape Structures Inc. is Recognized on Forbes' Inaugural Accessibility 100 List for its Commitment to Inclusive Play.



Bauer Design Build Celebrates Their 20th Year Anniversary!



Ridgewater College Customized Training Celebrated the Opening of Its New Delano Location with a Ribbon Cutting.



WCEDP Moves to City of Delano Building at 1050 McKinley Pkwy Delano, MN 55328

MBFC

mbfc.org | 800-593-0123

Reflecting its growth, MBFC is now known as Midwest Business Finance Corporation.



Kids Haven Breaks Ground on First Franchised Daycare Center in Waverly, MN



WCEDP & Sherburne County Launch Wright/Sherburne Enterprise Academy Cohort



WTCEO

THE CLASS TEACHES LEADERSHIP. ENCOURAGEMENT. CREATIVITY.

WCEDP continues to be a guiding force in the operation of the WTCEO class which began its eleventh year in September with 23 students and runs throughout the school year. This is our largest class yet. Entrepreneurship education seeks to prepare our high school youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. The WTCEO 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. Business and community support is growing each year as they meet the kids and see the immeasurable benefits for Wright County.

2025/2026 Students



**Class Visit with
Adam Eskova;
Forum Delano**



**Class Visit with Brent Stromme;
Motivational & Keynote Speaker,
Business Coach, & Entrepreneur**



**Class Visit with
Chelsie Schmid;
IntegriPrint**

Thank You to Our Investors!

- Adventure Bowls
- Airlift Doors
- B&D Plumbing, Heating & A/C Inc.
- Bankwest
- Bauer Design Build
- Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Calbrandt
- CorTrust Bank
- Deerwood Bank
- Grindstone Construction
- Hanover Lions
- Huikko's
- IntegriPrint
- Kid's Haven
- Lake Central Bank
- Levrg LLC (Radio-Active)
- Marksman Metal Co.
- MBFC
- Modern & Neighborly Properties LLC
- Monticello Lions
- Morries Ford
- North Risk Partners
- North Star Pro Realty
- Old National Bank
- Paumen Computers
- Pellco Machine
- Pfeifer Property Management
- Roers Companies
- Schmidt Decorative Concrete
- Thomes Insurance
- Tuffy's
- Ultra Machining Company
- Wright Hennepin Electric
- Wright Technical Center
- WSB
- Xcel Energy

Thank You Mentors & Speakers!

What is CEO?

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) is a class from the Wright Technical Center for students who are interested in starting their own business someday.

Some Highlights:

- Students practice and develop people skills in a variety of business settings.
- Lessons aren't taught by teachers, but by local entrepreneurs who share their business story and give students advice for starting their own business.
- Students tour local companies twice a week where they can see firsthand what goes into running a business.
- Every student in the class writes a business plan and starts their own business with help from a local business mentor.

We Need Your Help!

Be An Investor:

CEO is completely funded by investors who want to give students this opportunity. Investors in CEO contribute \$1,000/year for three years. We seek to involve as many individuals, businesses, and organizations as possible to ensure that students are exposed to a wide variety of opportunities and experiences. Our investors not only provide funding, but also provide the core network of resources.

Be A Sponsor:

Businesses or organizations that wish to financially support CEO at a smaller level can choose to become a sponsor.

Be A Mentor:

Investors, speakers, or supporters that wish to be involved on a more personal level can sign up to be a mentor. Each student will be paired with at least one mentor. The mentor can provide advice and insight as needed as well as serve as a gateway to the expertise of the local business community.



Mark Lee

Facilitator

Mark was born into an entrepreneurial family and saw firsthand the ups and downs of owning a business. When he started teaching after a career in the Ag Industry, he wanted all students to have that exposure. CEO is making that happen!

He had this to say about CEO: I believe in the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child." It's powerful when local entrepreneurs are sitting down with students and talking to them not only about business, but also the struggles of life, the rewards of putting yourself out there and the need to work your tail off day-after-day-after-day if you really want to succeed. Please visit our online calendar at WrightTechCEO.com and join us someday to see for yourself what an impact this class is having on students.

Wright Tech Member Districts

The Wright Tech CEO program services eight member school districts in both Wright and Sherburne Counties.

The eight local districts include:

Annandale



Big Lake



Buffalo



Delano



Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted



Maple Lake



Monticello



St. Michael-Albertville



Host The CEO Class:

The CEO class meets at a different business every quarter on days when they are not touring. If you have a meeting place that can hold up to 20 students, let us know. It needs to be available most weekdays from 7:30-9:00AM and have wireless internet.

Host A Class Tour Or Be A Guest Speaker:

Business tours and guest speakers are core to the success of this class. They provide the knowledge our students need to start and run a successful business. In addition, these business leaders play the critical role of energizing and inspiring our students!

What Do Students Think?

CEO students were given an anonymous survey about the class:

100% of students see more opportunity in their community because of the CEO class.

When asked, **100%** of the students would "recommend" or "highly recommend" the class. **100%**

Member Investor Information

WCEDP fulfills its mission by providing technical and financial assistance to businesses in Wright County and those looking to locate in Wright County. The Partnership also provides economic development assistance to the 16 communities and 18 townships. WCEDP is a non-profit corporation financially supported by local community governments, the county, and area businesses dedicated to supporting and creating a sustainable economic profile in Wright County. We maintain a powerful and resourceful website at www.wrightpartnership.org. Wright County, its communities, and businesses are prepared for growth—we invite you to explore the opportunity of working together with us to further our impact!

New Partner Investors Welcome! Contact Us:

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