An aerial photograph of a city, likely Oshkosh, Wisconsin, showing a river with several bridges crossing it. The city is densely packed with residential and commercial buildings. The river flows from the top right towards the bottom left. A large teal banner is overlaid on the top left corner of the image.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Building Business  
Building Community**

Photo Furnished by EAA





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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It has been a true honor to have served as your Oshkosh Chamber Chairman of the Board this past year. Oshkosh has been my home for more than 30 years. I've raised a family and grew a business here. As both an Oshkosh resident and a businessman, it has been a great privilege to serve the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.

2020 was a tough year for everyone both personally and professionally. Covid-19 has been the biggest challenge to the economy and the business community in the past 100 years. Throughout these past several months, Oshkosh Chamber members remained resilient. We have been challenged and forced out of our comfort zone. This was true for our organization and our staff. Early on, we made tough calls and decisions to right-size the organization and adjust the delivery of programs. We strived to keep the membership informed on fast-moving developments in our fight against Covid-19. We worked hard to advocate and to influence the decision to reopen and restart the economy and supported much needed stimulus packages in the form of the Paycheck Protection Plan and Economic Impact Disaster Loans connecting businesses to state and federal resources, along with local micro loans. We helped the membership to adjust their workplaces to adhere to federal guidelines and CDC safety protocols. We challenged member businesses to set a higher safety standard and go beyond those protocols to ensure that workplaces were safe for their employees and customers.

As your chairman, I was supported by an exceptional group of leaders in the business community that make up our board of directors. I truly appreciate their commitment to their community and the organization. I am proud of the many accomplishments the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce made this past year and I look forward to continuing to generate an atmosphere of growth for businesses here in Oshkosh. I am honored to be involved in one of the most prestigious chambers in the country. In March, the Oshkosh Chamber was, once again, recognized as a 5-Star Accredited Chamber of Commerce by the US Chamber of Commerce. As you will see in the pages that follow, this distinction was earned and well-deserved.

As I outlined our challenges last year, the board of directors charted a compelling plan focused on addressing these challenges focused on these strategic priorities:

- Enhance Economic Growth in the Community
- Talent & Workforce Readiness
- Drive Member Value
- Be the Chamber of Influence
- Demonstrate Organizational Excellence & Advance our Community

Foremost, it was my top priority to make certain that your chamber membership is valuable to you. The Oshkosh Chamber is effective because of motivated and dedicated individuals. We rely on membership support to maintain the strong voice we use to influence legislative, community, and quality of life issues that are imperative to Oshkosh's vitality. I am most proud of the policy work the Chamber did to restart the economy and to keep the doors of commerce open. Advocacy is core to the Chamber's mission. We have and will continue to be the voice of the business community. We will never apologize for supporting efforts to keep the economy going. As Oshkosh's voice of business, now is the time to aggressively leverage our assets and capabilities and become further united in our pursuit of a more prosperous community. Our commitment to business development and business advocacy has been and will continue to be the tools of our success.

There is growing diversity and an economic vitality that is flourishing in Oshkosh and the surrounding communities. Our businesses are strong and world renowned. Local business members chose to expand their investments here at home, while start-ups and entrepreneurs flourished with new infusions of capital. The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce is a driver of this economic engine. As this annual report details, we have seen business capital investments in commercial and industrial property of more than \$64.7 million and had 155 new incorporations, with Oshkosh employment at 40,748. These are fantastic numbers; the ball is definitely rolling in Oshkosh. There will be far more in the coming year with over \$50 million of new development already teed-up.

This has been an exciting time for Oshkosh. I see great opportunity for continued growth in our community and organization. On behalf of our board of directors, I am pleased to share with you the successes of 2020 in this annual report. Working alongside our members, the Chamber has many great accomplishments in support of our businesses and our community. As we launch 2021, we look forward to another year of making Oshkosh truly amazing!

**Javad Ahmad**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019 - 2020 Chairman



**Javad Ahmad\*** | Smart IS International

**Ken Arneson**

Evergreen – Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp.

**Jeff Bard**

Aurora Medical Center & Aurora Medical Group

**Tom Belter\***

Economic Development Advisory Council - Oshkosh Chamber

**John Casper\***

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce

**Steven Davis**

Ardy & Ed's Drive In, Team SNW LLC

**Hallie Dicks**

Covetrus

**Jon Doemel**

ZaRonis

**Mike Floyd**

Continental Girbau, Inc.

**Stephen Ford**

Lapham-Hickey Steel

**Ed Haedt**

Amcor

**Rachel Hansen**

Oshkosh Corporation – West Side Association

**Devon Hudak\***

ARC Contracting - PROPEL

**Phil Janes**

Oshkosh Marine Supply Co.

**Wilson Jones\***

Oshkosh Corporation

**John Kriz**

Muza Metal Products

**Andrew Leavitt**

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Brandon Lepp**

Nicolet Bank -Leadership Oshkosh Adjunct

**Dennis Lewandowski\***

A.P. Nonweiler Co.

**Dan Schetter**

BEST WESTERN PREMIER Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center – Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Grant Schwab**

FirstWeber Group

**Dan Shea**

Shea Electric

**Carey Sharpe**

The Howard

**Scott Sitter**

Nicolet Bank

**Regina Sobojinski**

Fox Valley Physical Therapy & Wellness

**Anne Steinert**

Steinert Printing

**John Supple**

Fox River Brewing Co. & Taproom

**Allison Vaccaro**

Amcor – Oshkosh Safety Council

**Chet Wesenberg**

Chet Wesenberg Architect, LLC

**Brian Wierzbinski\***

Experimental Aircraft Association Inc.

**Joan Woldt**

Bank First

**Robert Wolf**

The Roxy Supper Club

**Bill Wyman**

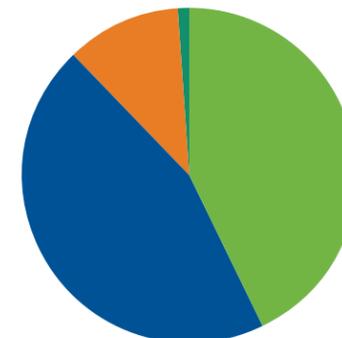
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

**Wayne Youngwirth\***

Youngwirth Associates, LLC

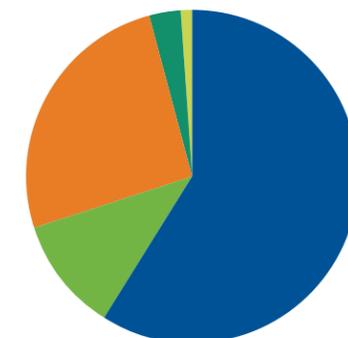
\*Executive Committee Member

## ORGANIZATIONAL SNAPSHOT



**Revenues:**

- Program Revenue (45%)
- Membership Revenue (43%)
- Contracted Services – OCCF & BID Reimburse (11%)
- Other – Interest, Misc. (1%)



**Expenses:**

- Salaries and Benefits (59%)
- Operating and Building (11%)
- Program Expense (26%)
- Membership Non-Renewals (3%)
- Other Expenses (1%)



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2021**

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# ECONOMIC GROWTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Although 2020 has challenged all of us, our Oshkosh Chamber and Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) is proud to have played a significant role in securing many impressive new projects. The Merge Development Brio project along Jackson Street will house the Oshkosh Food Co-op, while the Marriott Townplace Suites on Oshkosh Avenue and the Master's Mineshaft Restaurant and Entertainment project give Oshkosh an attractive face lift to our entry corridors. We continue the groundwork we laid in 2020 with similar-sized projects in our 2021 pipeline. We anticipate ongoing activity in commercial and industrial development, affordable housing and multi-family residential projects and senior living facilities. We also look forward to more downtown redevelopment activity in the Sawdust District and along the waterfront. One of our main goals is a continued expansion of our tax base so we can maintain our top tier results along with our Fox Valley peers.

– Tom Belter, Chairman, Oshkosh Chamber Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC)



## COMMUNITY VITALS

**95.9%**

EMPLOYMENT RATE

**40,748**

PEOPLE EMPLOYED  
BY OSHKOSH  
COMPANIES

**33,539**

OSHKOSH RESIDENTS  
EMPLOYED

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**14.3%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN APRIL 2020

**3.7%**

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NOVEMBER 2020

## NEW REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

**\$64.7  
MILLION**

NEW COMMERCIAL AND I  
NDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION

\*ACCORDING TO THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DOR)

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### EMERGENCY LOAN SUPPORT

assist businesses that were negatively impacted by the pandemic

**\$344,500**

deployed in 43 emergency local business assistance loans

**PARTNERED ON THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY RAPID RECOVERY LOAN PROGRAM**

CREATED BAR AND RESTAURANT EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM

**405** LOCAL JOBS RETAINED

## STATE SUPPORT

**\$375,000**

DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGH WEDC "WE'RE ALL IN" GRANT PROGRAM

**150**

BUSINESS SUPPORT LETTERS FROM THE OSHKOSH CHAMBER

**398**

OSHKOSH BUSINESSES RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$995,000 (PHASE I)

## OSHKOSH CHAMBER CLIENT SUPPORT

#### Mineshaft Restaurant

- 16.3 Million Invested
- 137 New Full Time Jobs
- 37,000 Square Foot Restaurant and Entertainment Facility
- Oshkosh Chamber Supported Client Since 2013
- Project Completed and Open for Business

#### Bank First

- Site Search Support
- Relocated and Open for Business

#### Merge Urban Development

- 57,000 Square Foot 5 Story Mixed Use Complex
- Oshkosh Food Co-Op
- 60 Residential Units
- Oshkosh Chamber Client Referred to City of Oshkosh
- Project Under Construction

#### Shea Electric

- Site Search Support
- Relocated and Open for Business

#### Chic-fil-A

- Market Support
- Project Under Construction

#### Marriott Towneplace Suites

- Developer Support
- Project Under Construction

#### Smart IS International

- Project Support
- Relocated and Open for Business

#### Adventure Games

- Financial Assistance/Chamber Loan Support
- Relocated and Open for Business

#### Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins

- Developer Support
- Project Under Construction

#### Home Care Assistance

- Financial Assistance/Chamber Loan Support
- Governmental Communication
- Relocated and Open for Business

#### Mtoxins Venom Lab

- Project Support
- Governmental Communication Assistance
- Project Completed and Open for Business

## OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

**61**

BUSINESS CASES

**150**

CALLS RELATING TO BUSINESS/MARKET SUPPORT INQUIRIES

**17**

START-UPS

**10**

PROJECT WINS

**16**

SITE TOURS PROVIDED

## BRIO BUILDING PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Merge Urban Development Group began construction on a new 57,000 square foot mixed use development in the Marion Road Redevelopment District along the Jackson Street corridor. The project will include 60 new multi-family residential units, and will be the home to the new Oshkosh Food Co-op on the ground floor. The Oshkosh Chamber worked very closely through its referral partner network to identify the Merge Development team to help cultivate its interest in Oshkosh. Merge Urban Development plans for additional mixed-used development in the district with a total project timeline exceeding 4 years.

## AVIATION PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT COMPLETED

Redevelopment of this blighted 27 acre site at Oshkosh's I-41/Highway 44 gateway was completed in 2020. The entire project included nearly \$22 million in new investment for Oshkosh. Construction was completed in July of 2020 on the new 37,000 square foot Mineshaft Restaurant and Entertainment project on the former Wal-Mart site that had been vacant since Wal-Mart's relocation in 2003.

The Mineshaft project included over \$16.3 million in investment while creating over 200 new jobs. The Oshkosh Chamber originally met with the Mineshaft ownership back in 2012 when they expressed an interest in the Oshkosh market. This project created a unique regional family entertainment venue that did not exist in Oshkosh or the Fox Valley.

In addition, construction was also completed in 2020 on the new home for Extreme Customs, one of the fastest growing aftermarket on-line wheel, tire, suspension and auto accessory businesses in the country. Extreme Customs purchased and renovated the former 60,000 square foot JC Penney building that had been vacant since 2015. The \$5.6 million project retained 35 jobs in Oshkosh and positions the company for future growth.

The City of Oshkosh received a WEDC Idle Sites grant to assist in the redevelopment and also created a TIF District to help support infrastructure improvements on the site. The development also includes the retention of long time tenant Rogan's Shoes.



### **O<sub>2</sub> Opportunity Oshkosh**

DISCOVER THESE AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN OSHKOSH



**Brio Building**  
155 Jackson St. • Marion Road Development Area  
Under construction by MERGE Urban Development Group  
5-story mixed-use building • 10,000 square foot Oshkosh Food Co-op  
60 market rate residential units



**Towne Place Suites by Marriott**  
103 Room Extended Stay Hotel  
Oshkosh Avenue Corridor • Construction to begin fall 2020  
Developed by Lakeshore Development of Oshkosh, LLC



**Mineshaft Restaurant**  
New 35,626 square foot restaurant/entertainment complex  
Opened July 2020  
\$16.6 million investment and up to 200 new jobs  
Redevelopment of former Aviation Plaza • I-41/Hwy 44 Gateway



**Lakeshore Plaza Office Building**  
22,000 square foot Class A 2-story Office Building  
Under construction by Lakeshore Development of Oshkosh, LLC  
Oshkosh Avenue corridor • CLA Oshkosh to occupy entire 2nd floor  
Up to 7,500 square feet available on 1st floor



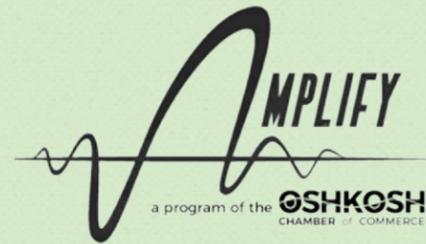
**Dunkin Donuts/New Retail Center**  
6,000 square foot retail center includes Dunkin Donuts & Baskin Robbins  
Developed by Lakeshore Development of Oshkosh, LLC  
3,700 square feet available for lease  
Oshkosh Avenue Corridor • Construction fall 2020



**Extreme Customs**  
Former 60,000 square foot J.C. Penney Building  
Aftermarket online auto accessory business  
Opened early 2020 • \$5.6 million investment & retained 35 jobs  
Redevelopment of former Aviation Plaza • I-41/Hwy 44 Gateway

# Amplify Oshkosh

This Oshkosh Chamber program is the grass-roots initiative of business, education, economic and workforce representatives, and others intended to amplify technology in Oshkosh businesses, careers, and education.



3,000  
Tech Jobs to be Filled Now



## Activities:

- Ideas Amplified Events
- Research Projects
- Professional Networking
- Community Outreach
- Educational Opportunities
- Leadership Academy

## Impact:

- Over 3,000 people reached through Ideas Amplified Events
- Over \$160,000 raised in support of the Amplify Oshkosh cause
- \$500,000 in-kind donations support Amplify Oshkosh efforts
- Igniting student interest in IT careers through class speakers, curriculum and exploration events
- NEWERA's research forecasts 3,000 tech jobs to fill in the region by 2021

## AMPLIFY OSHKOSH IT CONSORTIUM

The Oshkosh Area School District is proud to be a platinum sponsor of Amplify Oshkosh. The mission of the Oshkosh Area School District is to enrich our community by supporting our students to lead creative and empowered lives. In order to do this, we must ensure that school mirrors the future world that our students will help to create. Our sponsorship of Amplify Oshkosh helps us develop valuable partnerships with our high-tech business community to ensure we are meeting their needs, and at the same time, help us envision a brighter future for our community.

– Dr. David Gundlach, Deputy Superintendent - Oshkosh Area School District



### 2 Ideas Amplified Events Held

### 1 Member Mixer Event Held

### 2 Virtual Town Hall Meetings Held

250 total attendance

### 900 Individuals Participating since 2013

### 5 Amplify Committees

- Marketing and Events
- Skills and Talent
- Engagement
- Website and Social Media
- IT Leadership Academy Sub Committee

### Ethical IT BIG EVENT

150 Attendees

### IT Leadership Academy Created

16 Students

### 8 Amplify Annual Sponsors Confirmed



### IT Culture Conference November 2019

Keynote Speaker David Ryan Polger speaks in reference to who is responsible for what guides our decisions in how, why and where we advance technology. The Ethical IT Conference was held on November 15, 2019 at the UW Oshkosh Culver Family Welcome Center with 150 in attendance.

I continue to be delighted with the progress we are seeing with Amplify Oshkosh. Our ongoing connection with the Oshkosh Chamber has enabled us to add valuable programs as we strive to heighten the importance of technology and its associated careers. Amplify added new initiatives in 2020 including the Amplify Leadership Academy and virtual webinars focused on critical technology issues. I encourage other businesses and organizations to join me in supporting Amplify Oshkosh in 2021 and beyond by getting involved with our programs, networking and educational events and providing funding support so we can continue to elevate Oshkosh as a digital technology leader in our region”.



– Javad Ahmad, President and COO, Smart IS, Past Chairman of the Oshkosh Chamber Board and Founding Member of Amplify Oshkosh

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# YEAR IN REVIEW TIMELINE



Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Executives

## OCTOBER 2019

NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE  
CAREER EXPLORATION MANUFACTURING MONTH AND CAREERS SHOWCASE  
IT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ROLLOUT



## DECEMBER 2019

ANNUAL STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
FUTURE WISCONSIN SUMMIT



## FEBRUARY 2020

ANNUAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BREAKFAST FEATURING BRIAN BEAULIEU  
LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH ALUMNI GATHERING  
BUSINESS DAY IN MADISON



## APRIL 2020

COVID RESOURCE SECTION ADDED TO CHAMBER WEBSITE  
INTRODUCED WEEKLY VIRTUAL TOWN HALL SERIES  
PPP & ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS ROLLOUT  
CHAMBER SELLS HAND SANITIZER



## JUNE 2020

2ND ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF INVITATIONAL AT OSHKOSH COUNTRY CLUB BUSINESS AFTER HOURS RESUMES AT PEABODY'S  
CHAMBER OPPOSES PROPOSED COUNTY'S COVID-19 ORDINANCE  
Over 500 county residents attend County's Legislative Committee meeting to express opposition to this Ordinance



## AUGUST 2020

ANNUAL OSHKOSH CORPORATION/BANK FIRST CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC AT LAKE BREEZE GOLF COURSE  
ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE FORUM FOR PRIMARY ELECTION  
RESUMED AND COMPLETED 2020 LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH PROGRAM



## NOVEMBER 2019

112<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING & RECOGNITION PROGRAM  
AMPLIFY OSHKOSH: ETHICAL IT CONFERENCE  
JOINT BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WITH THE FOX CITIES CHAMBER AT COMMUNITY FIRST CREDIT UNION CORPORATE OFFICE



## JANUARY 2020

AM OSHKOSH @ OSHKOSH CORPORATION GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS  
BUSINESS EXPO – THE ROARING 20'S  
ANNUAL STATE OF THE COMMUNITY ADDRESS



## MARCH 2020

RECEIVE THE 5-STAR ACCREDITATION DESIGNATION FROM THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
CAREER PATHWAY DAYS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS  
**COVID-19 SAFER AT HOME ORDER BEGAN**  
CREATED AN EMERGENCY RESTAURANT & BAR MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM



## MAY 2020

**SAFER AT HOME ORDER ENDS**  
VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING, WEBINAR & TOWN HALL SESSIONS CONTINUE  
CHAMBER SELLS FACE MASKS



## JULY 2020

DRIVE-THROUGH JOB FAIR  
AM OSHKOSH AT NEW HYDRAULICS (1ST SINCE SAFER AT HOME ORDER)  
WITTMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT GROUND-BREAKING FOR GENERAL AVIATION TERMINAL BUILDING)



## SEPTEMBER 2020

GRADUATES 2020 LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH CLASS OF 42  
JAPANESE CONSUL-GENERAL VISITS OSHKOSH  
4TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH TRIVIA CONTEST RAISES \$13,000 TO SUPPORT WARMING SHELTER AND LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH PROGRAM

OSHKOSH WAS RANKED 19<sup>TH</sup> BEST PLACES FOR

RETIREES TO LIVE AND WORK 2020 BY SMARTASSET.

# WORKFORCE AND TALENT READINESS

## AMPLIFY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Amplify Oshkosh, a program of the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, launched the new Amplify Oshkosh Leadership Academy with its first session focusing on Critical IT Communication Skills. The academy was developed in recognition of the workforce challenges in retaining and developing aspiring technology talent within Northeast Wisconsin.



## DRIVE THRU JOB FAIR

The Oshkosh Chamber partnered with the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FWWDB) and Fox Valley Job Centers on July 15th to host a Drive Thru Drive Fair as part of a statewide, unified approach to let job seekers know about job opportunities that were available in our area during the pandemic.

Over 400 people received packets that included available jobs from 70 local companies. Volunteers distributed packets to job seekers who did not need to exit their cars. Available job opportunities were presented from a number of industry categories including manufacturing, office, construction, health care, professional, transportation/logistics, and more.



## LEADERSHIP OSHKOSH



Leadership Oshkosh (LO) has been a cornerstone leadership program for the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce since the program began in September of 1989. Including this year's class of 42 graduates, the program now boasts 1,086 graduates. The program is designed to bring together a diverse group of individuals who share a basic interest in and commitment to the Oshkosh community. Leadership Oshkosh benefits both the participant and the community. The knowledge and understanding gained from the training program will prepare individuals for leadership roles in both their organizations and the community. During the nine-month program, Leadership Oshkosh students serve on a local board of directors to gain insight and understanding into the world of nonprofit organizations.



Students participate in selecting a community charity and running a fundraiser. Understanding how to do so is an important part of community leadership. The last four classes have successfully operated a trivia contest that has benefited our community resources. Even with COVID there was no difference, as the class pivoted to both virtual trivia and silent auction raising \$13,000 benefitting the Day by Day Warming Shelter and the Leadership Oshkosh program. The three final program days as well as graduation were delivered in August and September with masks, socially distanced and offering participants virtual options to join. A special thank you goes out to Oshkosh Corporation for allowing the final program days and graduation to be held in their technologically advanced and large conference center.

The new class of 2021 began in September under the new COVID protocol. Programming is offered in-person as well as being offered virtually to those that are unable to attend. This year's class is learning first-hand that leadership includes tenacity and creativity.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Youth Leadership Oshkosh brings together 24 juniors with leadership potential from Oshkosh's four high schools to see leaders in action throughout our community, its resources, challenges and opportunities. This class represented the 20th year of the program's existence. Students meet one school day per month from September through April. This year due to COVID they were able to complete their program year in March. In addition, students incorporate team-building experiences and work on a service project that includes fundraising for a nonprofit. Focusing on the importance of literacy in our community, students raised funds for Winnebago Literacy and volunteered together at the public library. For the past three years, each student is assigned a career exploration mentor from Leadership Oshkosh alumni.

## INTERVIEWTHONS

**15 Employer Representatives | 126 Student Interviews**

For the past six years, the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce has coordinated Interviewthons held at Oshkosh North and West high schools for juniors interested in finding positions or perfecting their interview skills. This fall, 126 interviews with area employers were held with over 15 employers participating. At the end of each interview, students are provided with feedback on their interviewing skills.

The event is the capstone for training done by members of the Oshkosh Society of Human Resource Managers (SHRM) who presented in personal finance classes prior to the Interviewthons. They trained students on resume preparation and interviewing skills.

In the past, Interviewthons were held in the fall and spring, due to COVID, only the fall programming occurred.



## MANUFACTURING MONTH



Career exploration within the manufacturing sector is an important part of explaining our community's workforce opportunities, beginning with all 8th grade students in their technical education classes. This past year, Muza Metal Products, Wald Wire, Lapham-Hickey Steel, SMC Metals, and A.P. Nonweiler hosted students within their manufacturing locations.

A manufacturing essay contest followed the tours, sponsored by the Oshkosh Rotary, regarding careers in the companies that students toured.

High School students in technical education classes from Winneconne, Oshkosh North and Oshkosh West toured Amcor and Fox Valley Technical College Advanced Manufacturing and Spanbauer Centers as well as viewing presentations by Oshkosh Corporation.



## HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER SHOWCASE

**900 Students**

Over 900 students from Oshkosh and Omro public schools participated in a career exploration fair, which included over 75 hands-on presentations. Two videos were created by the Oshkosh North video class of the events with interviews from students, teachers and presenters so that in the future, students and faculty could access this from the chamber website.



OSHKOSH WAS RANKED 19<sup>TH</sup> BEST PLACES TO WORK

IN MANUFACTURING IN 2020 BY SMARTASSET.

## 8th GRADE CAREER PATHWAY DAYS

**715 Students | 38 Field Trips | 3 Days**

8th grade students from the Oshkosh Area School District and Valley Christian participated in 38 field trips in 3 days to explore careers at area companies, UW Oshkosh and Fox Valley Technical College.

Career Pathway Days offer students the opportunity to hear from local professional's as they share their career pathways while engaging students in hands on activities that assist them in understanding different fields of work.



## CELEBRATE EDUCATION AWARD



Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce Education Leadership Award was presented to the Mercy Health Foundation for their sponsorship of one of the Summer C.N.A. classes that trains high school students to become nursing assistants within our community. This class is also a pre-requisite for students that want to participate in the healthcare youth apprenticeship program. In partnership with Ascension Mercy Hospital, who hosted high school nursing students since 2017 the foundation supports career exploration and work experience within our community for aspiring students.

## YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP (YA) COORDINATION

Twenty-four juniors and seniors in high school completed their program year within youth apprenticeship programs (even during with COVID!) This is the largest number of students that the Oshkosh Chamber had within the program.

**15 Nursing | 5 Engineering | 1 Machining | 1 Animal Basics | | 2 Auto Mechanics**

Contributing to the success of the nursing youth apprenticeship program was the ongoing partnership with the Oshkosh Rotary and their sponsorship of certified nursing classes during the summer months.



## HR BREAKFAST BRIEFING SERIES

“We are proud to partner with the 5 Star Oshkosh Chamber in keeping its membership up to date with the most relevant, need-to-know legal developments. While COVID-19 brought and continues to bring its unique challenges, membership businesses remain eager to learn, engaged and well-positioned for whatever comes. We are proud to be a small part of that.”



– Jim Macy, Attorney at von Briesen & Roper, s.c.

von Briesen and Roper, s.c. have been facilitating and providing monthly HR seminars for many years through the Oshkosh Chamber. Their ongoing updates on current regulations and explanations of upcoming trends are highly attended and valued by chamber members. This year, when members needed guidance on COVID, the experts at von Briesen and Roper responded beginning in March by creating monthly webinars on topics that dealt with personnel issues and concerns facing employers within the COVID-19 environment. They continue to offer through the chamber, monthly HR Legal webinars which are recorded and archived on the chamber website for members to replay as an ongoing resource.

# DRIVE MEMBER VALUE

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chamber more than doubled the educational seminars and events from prior year.  
82 education seminars were hosted with over 4,200 participants.

Educational seminars – Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Chamber’s educational programming became virtual offerings. From March 18 through September 30, the Chamber produced 58 virtual webcasts. All programs were recorded and then offered on the chamber website for later viewing. 1,400 viewers participated in recorded programs. In total, virtual and recorded webcasts brought business information programming to over 3,700 viewers.

**NEW - Virtual Town Hall Series**

**Social Hub Series**

**Annual Economic Outlook Breakfast**

**Fall & Winter/Spring Seminar Series**

**Breakfast Briefings with von Briesen & Roper, s.c. - Human Resource Legal Briefings**

**Project Management Certificate Series**

**Leading from the Top Series**



## MAKING CONNECTIONS

**Held 45 connection opportunities attracting over 2,500 attendees**

Very Grateful to the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce

I've been a member of the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce now for two years. The Chamber has helped me tremendously with my business, networking with people locally, being able to provide a place to promote some of the things that I've had going on including my Family Portrait Videos, Video Marketing, and Business Coaching Services. The Oshkosh Chamber has been a tremendous resource to my business. Whether it's the monthly OC Connection breakfasts, the Annual meetings or being able to provide webinars and coaching to chamber members; my business has developed roots. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce for everything they've done for me over this year.



– Michael Raymond, President and Business Development Manager –  
Imagine Road Productions

“If you aren't already in the Oshkosh Chamber, you absolutely should be! The Oshkosh Chamber is the perfect place to meet and get to know fellow business owners, marketers, and entrepreneurs! There are opportunities to volunteer in the community, and to be a part of an organization that works tirelessly every day to help make Oshkosh a better place to live and work. If you are looking for a way to get your business or the business you represent in front of more people and make some long lasting business relationships, the Oshkosh Chamber is the place to go!”



– Justin Schmick, Brand Ambassador - Aquire Restoration Inc.

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Business After Hours

## OC Connection Breakfast

## Business Expo

## Social Media

Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter

## Golf Outings

- Chamber Golf Invitational held at the Oshkosh Country Club (June)
- Chamber Member Golf Outing at Lake Breeze Golf Course (August)

## Annual Meeting

## A.M. Oshkosh

## Ribbon Cuttings

## Amplify Oshkosh



# COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH/KEEPING YOU INFORMED

## Member Matters E-Newsletter

## Livability Media National Print & Web Publication

Livability.com reaches more than 10 million visitors each year and is the top rated Livability index in the country.

## Social Media

- Facebook – 3,210 Likes
- LinkedIn – 583 Followers
- Twitter – 3,671 Followers
- Youtube– 28,507 minutes viewing videos

## Oshkosh This Week

## Member 2 Member E-news and Program assessable through the Chamber website

## Chamber Website

## Chamber Enews

# BUSINESS SERVICES

## Affinity Programs

Group Health Insurance-Network Health

Voice & Data – US Cellular

Group Travel Program

Natural Gas Program-Constellation

Flex Spending & Healthcare Reimbursement Account  
Program-Benefit Advantage

Chamber Gift Certificate Program

Payroll Services-

Discount Prescription Drug Card – RxCard

Local & Long Distance Phone Program-NTD

Office Supply Program-Rhyme

Employee Recruitment-NationJob

Business(P&C)/Commercial Auto Insurance-Auto Owners

Like the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Network Health knows the community, and understands the challenges our customers face. When comparing the current health care market to the past 10 or 20 years, there have been many changes. The constant throughout the years is that the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and Network Health continue to provide stability and superior levels of local expertise that our customers have come to know and trust. Our partnership supports individuals and small businesses across the entire Oshkosh community.



– Coreen Dicus-Johnson, President and CEO – Network Health

# COVID MEMBER SUPPORT

Produced (14) forums for members to provide information virtually with local government, business and healthcare experts

Sold: 30,000 protective facemask and 170 gallons of had sanitizer to members

Moved all (53) professional seminars and OC Connection networking sessions to virtual offerings

Broad offering of (33) professional seminars and town hall webinars are recorded and available on the Oshkosh Chamber website for streaming

**EMERGENCY LOAN SUPPORT** - assist businesses that were negatively impacted by the pandemic

Presented an Amicus Brief to the Court with additional arguments as to why it should enter a temporary injunction against the release of information concerning businesses with over that had at least two employees test positive for Covid-19.

Opposed the creation of a Winnebago County Ordinance to give authority to the Public Health Director to issue General Orders to further lock down the County.

Supported legislation that would provide Covid-19 liability protection to businesses.

# 2020 ANNUAL MEETING RECOGNITION



**SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**HOME CARE ASSISTANCE**

**ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR**

**AMCOR**



**HORIZON AWARD**

**KITZ AND PFEIL**



**ALBERTA S. KIMBALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

**OSHKOSH KIDS FOUNDATION**

**LYNNE WEBSTER LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**SCOTT SITTER**



**AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**JOLENE HEUCHERT**

**PROPEL YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**MIRANDA FELDMAN**



OSHKOSH WAS RANKED 6<sup>TH</sup> MOST LIVABLE SMALL

CITIES IN THE U.S. IN 2020 BY SMARTASSET.

# EVENTS



**THANK YOU**

Oshkosh Chamber for our partnership in 2020

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# ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

## 5-STAR ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Accreditation with the United States Chamber of Commerce is the only program of its kind that defines excellence in chamber planning and recognizes chambers for outstanding contributions toward positive change in their communities. The purpose of the U.S. Chamber's Accreditation Program is to facilitate continuing excellence in the chamber industry and to foster a pro-business environment across America.



### Points about Accreditation:

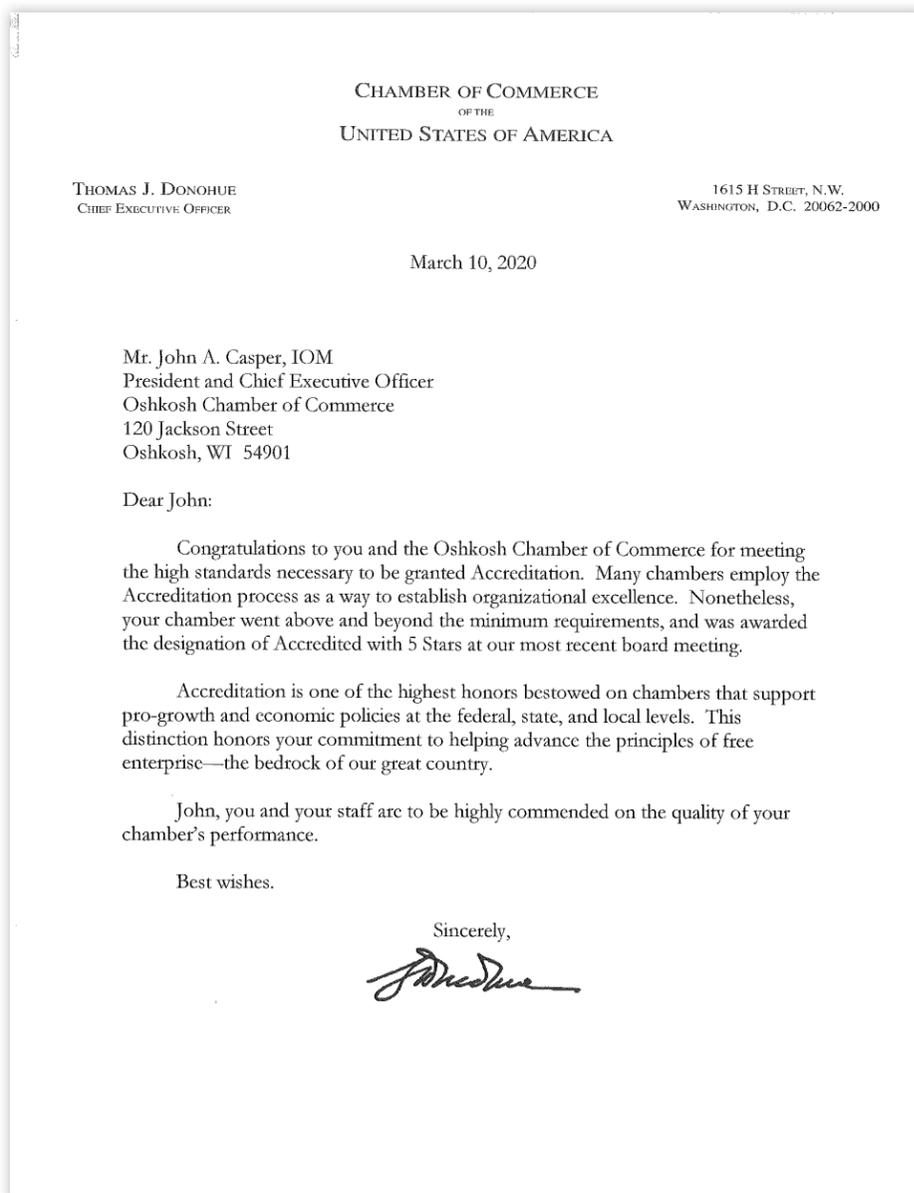
- 5-Star Accredited since 1998
- 6th time achieving 5-Stars
- Of 7,000 Chamber in the US, 205 are accredited
- 135 5-Star accredited chambers in the US
- Only 3% of all US chambers are accredited

### Special Recognition and Areas of Note:

- The chamber is recognized for providing a variety of member benefits and its efforts to increase focus on member engagement and retention are acknowledged as well.
- The chamber has established itself as an effective advocate for the Northeast Wisconsin region in support of policies and initiatives that foster business growth. The chamber's involvement in the WMC Future Wisconsin Steering Committee are noted along with its engaged Public Policy Committee and active grassroots network.
- The chamber is a leader in fostering programs and partnerships that spur business growth and job creation.
- The chamber is recognized for its Amplify Oshkosh Initiative.
- The chamber achieved a perfect score in the Human Resources, Communications, Facilities, and Benchmarking sections.

**The chamber has demonstrated a good track record of operating a successful chamber and achieving desirable results for its members. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is proud to accredit the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce with our Five-Star designation.**

**Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!**



# CHAMBER OF INFLUENCE PLAN FOR PROSPERITY 2020 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce supports a wide variety of initiatives that build a stronger local and regional marketplace and economy. A strong economy provides the tax base necessary to support education and local services, along with building a sustaining community infrastructure. Consequently, we support a public policy agenda that fosters business growth and creates jobs. We advocate for policies that strengthen talent and business attraction and retention to protect and grow family-supporting jobs in Wisconsin. For Oshkosh and Northeast Wisconsin to be successful, policies must be in place which allows local and regional companies to compete on a global level.

## As an Organization:

- We support a tax system that incentivizes business growth and workforce investment.
- We support efforts to streamline and reduce regulation that increases the cost of doing business.
- We support empowering local government to use economic development tools in ways that will help them grow their employment and tax base.
- We support honesty in taxation that ensures revenues collected are expended for the reason stated.
- We support initiatives that ensure Wisconsin workers have the skills to compete in a global economy.

## Government Affairs/Policy Activities:

- 54th Assembly Primary Candidate Forum – Candidates Donnie Hermann & Peter Kohloff
- Presented an Amicus Brief to the Court with additional arguments as to why it should enter a temporary injunction against the release of information concerning businesses with over that had at least two employee test positive for Covid-19.
- Supported efforts to reopen the economy.
- Opposed the creation of a Winnebago County Ordinance to give authority to the Public Health Director to issue General Orders to further lock down the County.
  - Retained EimerStahl on behalf of the Oshkosh business community.
- Supported legislation that would provide Covid-19 liability protection to businesses.
- Conducted annual candidate survey of election issues and published Voter Guide to candidate responses.
- Sponsored weekly virtual Town Hall Sessions.
- Sponsored Annual State of the Community Address.
- Supported the construction of a new General Aviation Terminal on Wittman Regional Airport.

The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce took a very strong stance and aggressively took efforts to lobby to reopen and keep open the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic. While others looked for ways to further lockdown the economy, the Chamber was the only local organization that was looking out for the best interest of local businesses. We also challenged area businesses to set a higher standard of safety for their employees and customers as they reopened their doors to commerce.



– Wayne Youngwirth, Chairman-Public Policy Committee



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IN 2020 OSHKOSH WAS RANKED 19TH IN  
BEST PLACES TO WORK IN MANUFACTURING  
2020 EDITION BY SMARTASSET

IN 2020 OSHKOSH RANKED 19TH IN THE BEST PLACES  
FOR RETIREES TO LIVE AND WORK BY SMARTASSET

OSHKOSH RANKED 3RD IN TOP 10 CITIES FOR  
WORKING PARENTS IN 2020 BY SMARTASSET

IN 2020 OSHKOSH RANKED 6TH IN MOST LIVABLE  
SMALL CITIES IN THE U.S. BY SMARTASSET.

# Celebrate Business

## 113TH ANNUAL MEETING & RECOGNITION PROGRAM



The Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors invites you to celebrate accomplishments of the past year and recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals and businesses.



Thursday, January 28, 2021  
Zoom Webcast • 12:00-1:00 p.m.



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