

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

The Voice of Business for February



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

FEBRUARY 9TH
LUNCHEON
AT TIMBERLAKE

FROM IDEA TO IMPACT: HOW THE SBDC HELPS SMALL BUSINESS THRIVE

Join us for a luncheon featuring Northern Minnesota's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) - "Guiding Minnesotans to Small Business Success." Learn how their no-cost consulting and training can help you **plan**, **start**, **manage**, and **grow** your small business so you can start, expand, and succeed! Whether you're dreaming of starting a new business, or you're well established - this luncheon is for you!

Sponsored by:



ITASCA BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

SPEAKER:



NICHOLE ARBOUR
Manager of Business Consulting
Itasca Economic Development Corporation

11:45 Buffet Available
12:00 Luncheon Begins
1:00 Adjourn

RSVP Deadline: 02/06/26
218-326-6619
jennifer@grandmn.com

\$15/Members
\$20/Non-members

Taxes are not included in the price and will be added at event check-in. Gratuity is also not included. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Be sure to RSVP for our next luncheon where we will welcome **Nichole Arbour** from Itasca Economic Development Corporation to share how the Northland Small Business Development Center can help you plan, start, manage, and grow your small business!

Thank you to

Itasca Business Professionals

for your sponsorship of this luncheon!

THANK YOU AGAIN TO **JANUARY** LUNCHEON SPONSOR:



POWERED BY **GIGAZONE**

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO **FEBRUARY** LUNCHEON SPONSOR:



ITASCA BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

Calendar of Events

Be sure to visit our website for a listing of all of our events including NEW learning opportunities!



Luncheon

From Idea to Impact:
How the SBDC Helps Small Business Thrive
February 9, 2026
Timberlake Lodge

Winter Leadership Workshop Series

"What You Expect is What They Become"
February 25, 2026
Sugar Lake Lodge

Lunch-N-Learn

Succession Planning with Northspan
March 4, 2026
Timberlake Lodge

Luncheon

First Call for Help
March 9, 2026
Timberlake Lodge

Join us at Sugar Lake Lodge for our **Winter Workshop Series!**
February 25, March 25 & April 29

Our first of three sessions is on Wednesday, February 25:

**"What You Expect is What They Become:
How to create a high-performance culture through belief, not pressure."**

Registration is OPEN with discounts offered for GR Chamber members, and for multi-session registration.

Visit the Chamber Events website to learn more about all three events:
grandmn.com/events

WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

WHAT YOU EXPECT IS WHAT THEY BECOME

Sugar Lake Lodge

February 25, 2026
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

\$75 / person
\$65 / chamber members

How to create a high-performance culture through belief— not pressure.
Takeaways: intentional leadership, feedback models, and communicating with empathy.

Register: sugarlakelodge.com/leadership-workshop



Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce



GRAND CONNECTIONS

SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US!

SMALL BUSINESS EDUCATION DAY

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
MN North – Itasca Campus

Do you offer services, resources, or products that support small businesses? Join us as a vendor at our **Small Business Education Day!** Connect with the community on Tuesday, March 10 at MN North – Itasca Campus. Reach April at 218-326-6619 or visit grandmn.com/events for details.

Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

grandmn.com
218-326-6619

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPEN!

We will be awarding two, \$1,000 scholarships. All area graduating seniors pursuing a certificate, 2-, or 4- year+ degree are encouraged to apply!

Apply Now grandmn.com/gracc-scholarship/
grandmn.com > Chamber > GRACC Scholarship

Deadline: April 1st



Our 2026 Scholarship application is open!

All students graduating from Itasca County area high schools are encouraged to apply. Because of the generosity of our scholarship sponsor, **Mesabi Metallics Company, LLC**, we are able to provide two, \$1,000 scholarships.

One each for:

**Certificate or 2-year Technical/Vocational student, and
4-year/University student.**

The deadline to apply is **April 1, 2026.**
grandmn.com/gracc-scholarship/



ESSAR Group - Green Steel

Committee Meetings

Ambassador:

3rd Wednesday/Month
Noon - 1:00pm

Government Affairs

Last Friday/Month
7:30am - 9:00am

Natural Resources:

Last Friday/Month
9:15am - 10:45 am

To be added to the invite for these committees, email April:
april@grandmn.com

Business Spotlight

Let's find



your rich

Edward Jones

What makes your life feel rich? Whether it's watching your kids discover new passions or finding what brings your family closer, we're here to help you build a life you love.

Contact me today.

edwardjones.com/findyourrich
Member SIPC



Robert E Zaun, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
124 Ne 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-327-1157

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NORTHERN MINNESOTA SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW



July 24-26, 2026 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds

Swap Meet: Over 200 vendors with vintage treasures, handmade goods, car parts, and collectibles - food booths and food trucks, live music, family activities and daily themes!

Car Shows:

- Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm: Yanmar Arena Hosted by Northern Cruisers Car Club
- Sunday, 8 am - 2 pm: Itasca County Fairgrounds

Sponsored by:

www.GRANDMN.com 218.326.6619 Northern Minnesota Swap Meet & Car Show



FRIDAY, JULY 24TH 1 PM - 7 PM
SATURDAY, JULY 25TH 8 AM - 5 PM
SUNDAY, JULY 26TH 8 AM - 2 PM

VENDOR
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!
Scan the QR
code for early
bird pricing!

2026 BOARD TRANSITIONS Executive Committee



Chair: Dan Cooper
Lake Country Power



Vice Chair: TJ Otto
Minnesota Power



Treasurer: Shannon Benolken
Park State Bank



Secretary: Gabby Jerulle
Herald Review



Past Chair: Rawan Elbitar
Ameriprise Financial

New Director, 1-Year Term

Tony Csmarich
UPM/Blandin



welcome

Trent Janezich
MN North



Lori Gill
UPM/Blandin



Outgoing Directors

Thank You

Matt Shermoen
(formerly) IEDC



Welcome New Members!



ITASCA BUSINESS
PROFESSIONALS

Find them on Facebook!

Lakewood Lodge



53026 County Road 35
Deer River, MN 56636
218-659-2389
lakewoodlodge.com

LOVE YOUR HAIR
by Amanda

823 NE 4th St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-259-7317

President – CEO: **April Arnason**
Business Relations Coordinator: **Kerry Larsen**
Events & Marketing Coordinator: **Jennifer Plackner**



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