



CLASS HANDBOOK

2024-2025

**LEADERSHIP
DULUTH** 
Duluth Area Chamber Foundation


DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER
Foundation


DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

2024-2025 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Orientation

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 1

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 2

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 3

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 4

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 5

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 6

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 7

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 8

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 9

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Day 10

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Leadership Duluth Graduation



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BANK**



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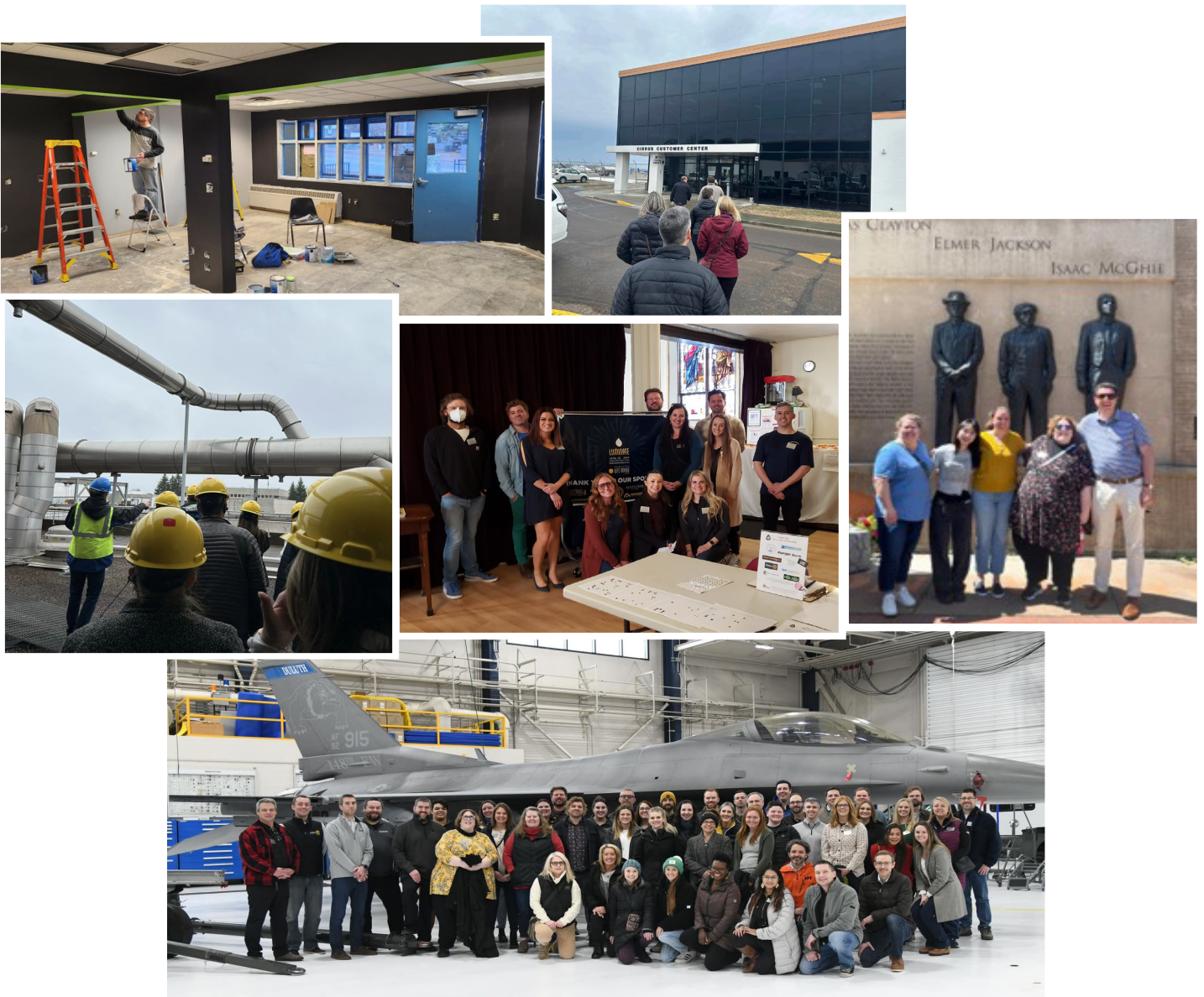
ABOUT LEADERSHIP DULUTH

Leadership Duluth is a comprehensive 10-month leadership development program by the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and the Duluth Area Chamber Foundation that aims to unite, engage and empower leaders to foster change within their workplace and community.

Throughout the program, participants examine core leadership competencies, learn about Duluth's cultural and business history, and discuss current issues facing the region. As a result, participants grow to understand the elements of a strong community and how their leadership can create opportunities within a business and cultivate a robust economy.

More than 1,500 area professionals have completed the Leadership Duluth program since its first graduating class in 1988.

Congratulations on being selected as the 37th class of Leadership Duluth!



LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES



Each Leadership Duluth class session presents a valuable opportunity to engage with local leaders from the Duluth area, allowing participants to gain insights into how these individuals effectively utilize a diverse range of leadership competencies to achieve success in their respective roles. The discussions will be tailored to the unique circumstances of each location, fostering an environment where real-world applications of leadership concepts can be explored in depth.

By connecting these experiences to the core learning competencies that underpin the Leadership Duluth program, participants will not only enhance their understanding of effective leadership but also cultivate meaningful community connections. Following these enlightening discussions, members will be encouraged to reflect on the strategies learned and consider practical ways to integrate them into their own professional practices, thereby promoting a collaborative approach to leadership development.

Situational Ethics

Courageous Conversations

Communication Skills

Time Management

Project Management

Leadership Styles

Relationship Building

Organizational Skills

Conflict Management

Cultural Awareness

MEET THE CLASS



CALEB ANDERSON *(he/him)*

Development Coordinator
Duluth Housing & Redevelopment Authority

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218-393-7677

Caleb Anderson is a new professional asset to Duluth, serving as the Development Coordinator at the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority. He studied biology at UMD, served as the Zoning Administrator in Pine County for eight years and operates a small, sustainable beef and pork farm just south of Duluth. He is excited to be in his new role at the HRA to network across various sectors of industry to establish partnerships that help advance Duluth's affordable housing goals.



NATALIE BAKER

Director of Communication and Marketing
Duluth Airport Authority

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218-491-3642

Natalie was born and raised in Duluth and serves as the Director of Communication and Marketing for the Duluth Airport Authority. Natalie has a degree in Communication and Political Science from the University of Minnesota Duluth and has a passion for aviation and building strong relationships with her community. In her free time, she enjoys skiing, golfing, and spending time on any lake with her husband and their dog.



TIMOTHY BALTHAZOR

Senior Manager
RSM US LLP

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218-341-5339

I'm Tim Balthazor, a CPA with RSM in Duluth. I'm a Senior Manager in our audit practice who specializes in serving clients in the healthcare industry and I lead the health care audit practice here in Duluth. I am dedicated to supporting local and national healthcare organizations. I'm a transplant from the Twin Cities who has been in Duluth for 16 years and made it the home I love and enjoy being a part of.



ERIC BARTO

Director of Education and Patient Operations
Aspirus St. Luke's

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218-249-5099

I am a Hibbing high school graduate and received my undergraduate degree in Nursing from the college of St. Scholastica. Additionally, I completed my MBA at the College of St. Scholastica in leadership and change. I have worked at St. Luke's since 2001 in multiple capacities i.e., ICU nurse, educator and in different leadership roles. My current role is the Director of Education and Patient Operations. I am passionate about process improvement, staff development and working with teams to solve problems. My brother and I co-own a small resort business in the Grand Rapids area. In my free time I enjoy the outdoors hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, skiing, and camping in the BWCA with my wife and three boys 16, 21, 24.



NIKOLAS BAYUK

Mortgage Compliance Officer
North Shore Bank

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Nikolas Bayuk is a lifelong resident of Duluth MN. He currently resides in the Woodland neighborhood with his wife Kelley, daughters Molly and Hailee, and cocker spaniel Oscar. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Mass Communication and a minor in Political Science. He currently works as a Mortgage Compliance Officer for North Shore Bank of Commerce. Prior to coming to North Shore Bank, he spent 9 years working for Minnesota Power, an ALLETE Company in customer relations and transmission compliance.

When not at work, Nik volunteers his time with the Chester Bowl Improvement Club serving on their Board of Directors. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and daughters at the family cabin on Whiteface Reservoir, driving his daughters to basketball and ski practice, family ski days, and frequenting the Duluth Public Library.

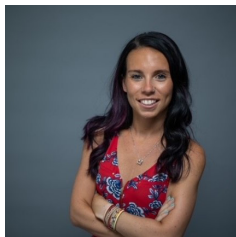


MILISSA BROOKS-OJIBWAY

Collections Manager
Glensheen, The Historic Congdon Estate

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218-343-7574

I have been in museum collections management for 24 years now, starting at the St. Louis County Historical Society where I worked my way up from Collections Assistant to Registrar and finally Collections Manager for a total of 15 years. Almost nine years ago I was hired as the Collections Manager for Glensheen. I've served on the board for the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums and as the Minnesota and now regional rep for the American Association for State and Local History Leadership Awards program. I recently served on the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants program. I also currently serve on the Historic Resources Advisory Committee for larger Legacy Grants. Locally, I serve as secretary for the Friends of the Duluth Public Library board and as a board member of the Douglas County Historical Society in Superior, WI. I love Duluth and its amazing history.



LINDSEY BURAN *(she/her)*

Strategic Account Representative
Minnesota Power - An ALLETE Company

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612-327-8723

My name is Lindsey Buran and I have lived in Minnesota for the past 23 years. I graduated from University of Wisconsin-Superior with a Bachelors in Transportation and Logistics Management. I've worked at Minnesota Power for 9.5 years. I love being outdoors and volunteering my time to help others in need (humans and animals). I was on the Board of Directors for Animal Allies Humane Society for 7 years and continue to volunteer and help organize their major fundraising events.



ANDREW BYLANDER (he/him)
Senior Director of Communications
Duluth Area Family YMCA

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Andrew Bylander has pursued diverse studies across different locations, from Web Development in Tempe, Arizona, to Lutherie in Red Wing, Minnesota, and Music Theory in Brainerd. His love for travel led him to live and work in various states around the country before settling in Duluth to study Computer Science. Andrew’s journey with the YMCA started in 2014 as a volunteer, gradually progressing through internships and roles until he became the IT Administrator. With nine years of dedicated experience, he now holds the position of Senior Director of Communications, overseeing the Information Technology and Marketing Departments.



SHANNON CARLSON
Associate Director, Consumer Services
UnitedHealthcare

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320-282-5966

Hi, my name is Shannon Carlson. I’ve called Duluth home for the last 16 years! I went to the University of Minnesota Duluth and immediately knew that Duluth was where I wanted to stay after graduation. I started my career at UnitedHealthcare here in Duluth right out of college. I’m currently an Associate Director where I lead a team of 600+ team members that are the most compassionate team in health care! We get to impact the lives of the members we serve each and every day and truly make a difference. I am super proud of the work the team does! Outside of work I am busy taking my two daughters (7) and (6) around to as many activities as we can around Duluth! We are active in youth sports specifically hockey and gymnastics, which keeps us very busy! We love learning and exploring Duluth together as a family along with our lab, Kash!



MIKILIA CARROLL
Community Housing Manager
Family Rise Together

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218-522-0513

My name is Mikilia Carroll, and I am honored to serve as the founder of Aid4Autism. Our organization is deeply committed to advocating for families and children within the autism spectrum community. At Aid4Autism, we dedicate ourselves to tirelessly providing essential support, valuable resources, and heightened awareness for individuals with autism and their families. I am a dedicated mother of three and proud “Glam-ma” to one. Having been a part of the Duluth community since 2000, and fourteen years of experience working at Duluth Public Schools, I am deeply invested in making a positive impact by advocating for better resources and nurturing meaningful relationships within our community.



REBA COPELAND (she/her)
Associate Vice President for College Advancement
The College of St. Scholastica

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I am the Associate Vice President for College Advancement at The College of St. Scholastica. I am fortunate to have a fulfilling career for which I am passionate. As a first-generation college student, I am proud to work hard to provide opportunities for students to experience the life-changing impact of education in the same way that allowed me the opportunity to complete B.A. and M.A. degrees. With the support of my family, I work hard to bring my best to each of my roles, whether as a full-time working mother, wife, community member, or friend.



DOMINIC DAHLEN

Program Manager
Cirrus Aircraft

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I graduated with an Aerospace Engineering degree from Saint Louis University in 2011 and started at Cirrus in 2012 working on the SF50 vision jet type certification and production launch. I have found Duluth as my home for the last 12 years. I love the outdoors and aviation so Duluth has always been a natural fit and I feel proud to tell people where I'm from and what I do!



KACIE DOHERTY *(she/her)*

Controller
DSGW Architects, Inc.

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A born and raised Duluthian, I have been the Controller of DSGW Architects for nearly a decade and have worked in the accounting industry for over 17 years. I live in Saginaw with my husband Jim and our son Archer, where we spent the past two years building our house. I enjoy spending my time attending my son's sporting events (karate, baseball, soccer, and golf) and as a family we enjoy spending time outdoors, boating, four-wheeling, and having bonfires. I also enjoy volunteering at my son's elementary school, where I have served for the past 2 years as Treasurer of their Partners in Education association, working to support classroom and school activities and raise funds to enhance the school experience for all students.



ANIKA EIDE

Operations and Culture Manager
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation

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My name is Anika and I work for the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation as the Operations and Culture Manager. Duluth has been my home since September 2021 and I am grateful every day for it. After earning my Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in creative writing from Hamline University, I worked in a creative writing program and volunteered as a mentor coordinator for the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop, which remains one of the more profound experiences of my life. I was a modern dancer, a volunteer, a lyric essayist, and one of those who dabbles in film and photography. I called Minneapolis my home for thirteen years, then decided to shake things up. As a certified veterinary technician, I spent five years working in the veterinary field in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and remain committed to the care of domestic and wild animals. I live in Lincoln Park with my partner, a delightfully weird old cat and a dog that is pure joy.



JOEY ENGSETH

Senior Technical Sales Rep
Altec Industries

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Joey Engseth is a Senior Technical Sales Rep for Altec Industries, Inc. She started with Altec in 2016 and has stayed with the TSR team throughout her entire Altec career. Joey earned her Bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Scholastica in Advertising & Public Relations. She lives in Duluth, MN with her husband, Derek, and their 8-month old daughter, Kinsey. Joey is active in the Duluth community, volunteering for Grandma’s Marathon, multiple ALS fundraising events and is a Board Member for the Lake Superior Zoo. Joey enjoys playing volleyball, curling, and enjoying the Duluth weather – snow or shine!



REGINA FODNESS

Senior Sales Manager
Holiday Inn & Suites - Downtown Duluth

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218-428-7973

I was born and raised in Duluth, MN. I am the Senior Sales Manager at the Holiday Inn & Suites Downtown Duluth. I have been in the hospitality industry for 20 years, I enjoy hanging out with my family and our dog Cooper.



BENJAMIN FYE (he/him)

Sergeant
St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office

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218-428-7723

Hi, my name is Ben Fye. I am a born and raised proud Duluthian! I have been a Deputy Sheriff for 16 years and am currently employed as a Patrol Sergeant/K9 Handler out of the Duluth Office. In my free time I enjoy investing in local Duluth real estate.



JAY GABLER (he/him)

Arts and Entertainment Reporter
Duluth News Tribune

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218-279-5536

I’ve lived and worked in Duluth since 2022, but this is actually the second time I’ve called the city my home: my family lived here for five years when I was in grade school. I’ve enjoyed gaining a new perspective on Duluth as a working reporter, covering arts and lifestyle topics for the News Tribune.

Prior to my most recent move, I was living in Minneapolis and working as a digital producer for The Current (Minnesota Public Radio). I’ve written widely on the arts and other topics, including extensive freelancing and several book projects. My next book will be “100 Things To Do In Duluth Before You Die; (Reedy Press, 2025).

Aside from the Duluth years (ages 7-11), I grew up in St. Paul. I went to college at Boston University, where I studied education. I then attended graduate school at Harvard University, earning degrees including a Ph.D. in sociology. I currently live in Duluth’s East Hillside neighborhood with my spouse, who teaches at Denfeld, and our infant son.



STACEY GREEN *(she/her)*
 Strategic Account Manager
 Minnesota Power - An ALLETE Company

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 218-461-6952

I am a Twin Cities native and moved to Duluth in the summer of 2022. I quickly realized that I wanted to work for a company closely involved and invested in the local community and surrounding region - Minnesota Power fit the bill! I was fortunate to obtain a position as a Strategic Account Manager within our Customer Experience Department. This means I have the pleasure of working with our largest industrial and wholesale customers on a daily basis. Personally, I have a son who attends UMD, as well as 3 cats and 2 dogs that keep me busy (and entertained). My partner Steve and I enjoy camping, hiking, and both suffer the unfortunate condition of being a Minnesota sports fan. I also love to travel and I'm excited to visit Iceland this September!



EMMA GROVER *(she/her/hers)*
 Individual Insurance Director
 Wheeler Associates

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Hello, my name is Emma and I have been with Wheeler Associates for 8 1/2 years. I am the Individual Insurance Director and truly enjoy my career and my team. I feel incredibly lucky to work along side some of the most kind, giving, and inspiring people in our community. I am also the head coach of the Carlton-Wrenshall Girl's Basketball program. I truly enjoy the game of basketball, but I also enjoy what the game can teach us about life. There are many lessons we can take from the game not to mention the fun bit of competitiveness that comes with it as well. I really like teaching these young ladies the game of basketball, how to be strong individuals and how to work together as a team. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I have a 10 year old Shi-tzu-Yorkie, named Chester who is my best pal and enjoys long rides on the golf cart or pontoon. I enjoy being outside, reading, golfing, and playing basketball.



ALLISON HANIG-LANDRUS
 Agency Owner
 American Family Insurance

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 612-281-3036

From my hometown of Milwaukee to my adopted town of Duluth, with an educational stint in Minneapolis, my Midwest path paints a vivid picture of my life dedicated to growth, learning, and community engagement. My academic achievements in Elementary Education (B.S. & M.Ed.) from the University of Minnesota reflect my deep commitment to education, which has undoubtedly influenced my leadership style, marked by passion, empathy, and team development. With two decades of retail management experience, I've honed skills that are essential in any business environment. These skills have guided me in my transition into my role as an agency owner with American Family Insurance. Throughout my career, my dedication to community service and continued growth has remained a constant, driving force in my life. My commitment to my professional pursuits is equaled by my personal aspirations as a wife to a supportive husband of nine years, cat mom to three amazing kitties, and an avid long-distance runner.



LISA HANSMANN (she/her)

Owner
Russell Steel

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218-310-5036

I am the second-generation owner of Russell Steel, a local metal supplier. I am passionate about supporting small business in our region and creating a positive work environment for my team. I love being challenged in my work and learning new ways to grow my business. I attended The College of Saint Benedict for my B.A. and The College of Saint Scholastica for my M.B.A. I live in Carlton, MN with my husband and two daughters, aged 5 and 1-1/2. In my free time, I enjoy getting outside with my family, hiking and traveling.



ROSE INGEBRIGTSEN (she/her)

Marketing Coordinator
TKDA

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Rose holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and has lived in Duluth and surrounding Twin Ports for the better part of the last 12 years. Having lived on the West Coast and overseas, Rose finds that Duluth, with its vibrant community and impressive surrounding natural landscape, remains her favorite place to live, work, and explore.

As a Marketing Coordinator at TKDA, and with previous experience working as a Health Advocate at the Lake Superior Community Health Center, Rose carries a deep appreciation for the importance of community-centered organizations. At TKDA Rose enjoys being a part of projects that shape our community's urban and rural landscape. She prepares proposals for upcoming architecture and engineering projects for roads, bridges, public works facilities, railways, and airports.



JUSTIN JACOBSON

Talent Development Specialist
Northwood Children's Services

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218-220-9866

I have been working at Northwood Children's Services for the past 10 years. I started as an intern while completing my bachelors through UND then worked as a direct care staff for 4 years, a supervisor for 5 years and now I am the Talent Development Specialist. I enjoy sharing the great work that Northwoods does, meeting new people during interviews when I am able to assist with them and spending time with new hires during the onboarding process and during trainings.



MADLINE JOYNES EVANSON (she/her)

Senior Financial Advisor
Merrill Lynch - Joynes Wealth Management Team

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Madeline Evanson is a Senior Financial Advisor and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional with the Joynes Wealth Management team at Merrill Lynch. She joined the multi-generational family practice in 2018 after graduating from the University of St. Thomas. Her primary role on the team is working with clients to integrate financial planning alongside portfolio management.

She is a member of the Fuse Leadership Council and is on the Executive Leadership Team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's for the Twin Ports. She lives just outside of Duluth with her husband Brady and their two yellow labs. She enjoys getting outdoors and staying active. Depending on the season you will find her either biking, cross country skiing or taking yoga sculpt classes.



KATIE KAUTTO *(she/her)*

Accountant
Duluth Accounting and Tax Services

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218-969-2251

My name is Katie Kautto and I work as an accountant with Duluth Accounting and Tax Services. I grew up in Nashwauk, MN and moved to Duluth to attend college at UMD where I earned a bachelor of accounting degree. When not working, I enjoy spending time with friends, going to concerts, kayaking, and baking.



SAMANTHA KERR

AVP-Signature Banker
National Bank of Commerce

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218-740-2434

I am a Signature Banker at National Bank of Commerce. I have been with National Bank of Commerce for 7 years and in banking for 13 years. I grew up in Marshalltown, Iowa and moved to Minneapolis in 2003 where I attended Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I started my banking career in 2011 in Downtown Minneapolis. My boyfriend Andrew and I moved to Duluth in 2012. I love hiking, camping, and spending time with my friends and family.



KAYLA KLUMB *(she/her)*

Property Manager
Oneida Realty Company

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Kayla is a Property Manager at Oneida Realty Company and loves working with her team and community. With over a decade of experience in property management, Kayla has honed her skills across the Fargo/Moorhead area and the city of Duluth. Born and raised in Avon, Minnesota, Kayla developed a deep appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounded her from a young age. After graduating from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a bachelor's degree in graphic design, Kayla made the move to Duluth in 2014, eager to immerse herself in a new community. When she's not overseeing the day-to-day operations, Kayla can often be found exploring what the Duluth area has to offer or cuddling up with her beloved Bernedoodle.



CHRISTINA KNETSCH *(she/her)*

Director, Special Projects
Lake Superior Consulting

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218-491-1518

Christina Knetsch has been with Lake Superior Consulting (LSC) since 2013, currently serving as the Director of Special Projects and focusing on key organizational initiatives that impact the strategic direction of the company. Christina enjoys collaborating with senior leadership and serving as a champion for positive change and progress. She previously served as the Director of Human Resources and Business Development Manager at LSC. Christina holds an M.B.A. in Business Leadership from the College of Saint Scholastica and a B.A. in International Management from Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN. Christina and her husband, Justin, live in rural Duluth and stay busy chasing their three young kids around.



ANDREA KUZEL *(she/her/hers)*
 Magic Maker
 Norway Hall Event Center

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 218-348-1928

I am a transplant from St. Paul who moved here in 2012 and fell in love with this gem of a city. I am a mom, an amazing wife and an entrepreneur who can't stop entrepreneuring. I started a ballroom dance community 12 years ago that is still bustling and now I run Duluth's Newest DT Event Venue: Norway Hall Event Center. I co-chair my kids' school family association. I am board chair for the Lyric Opera of the North. I teach ballroom dance to the Park Point Summer Camp kids in the summer and I am a fierce advocate for the arts. I worked my way through college and graduate school in the hospitality industry - which I found about as valuable as my degrees. I have been a professional ballroom dancer, a special events pastry chef, an admissions counselor, a nanny, owned a wedding cake business, and a successful ballroom dance studio. I love being in a city that not only allows people like me to be me - but allows us to thrive through amazing support and programs for businesses.



MITCHELE LACOURSIERE
 Enlisted Manager
 148th Fighter Wing, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

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 218-340-2226

I am a long time Duluth resident currently serving with the 148th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard. I joined the guard in 2004 as a part time, Dual Status Guardsman. During my initial time at the Guard I was a union pipefitter in the Duluth area. After 6 years in the trades, I was hired in 2010 to a fulltime position with the 148FW. Though a number of advancement opportunities to align with my Business Management degree, I have made a successful career serving in the Air Guard having served in multiple squadrons. Currently I am in the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron managing aircraft, equipment, and personnel at deployed locations in the United States.



MARJAANA LAWRENCE
 Marketing Coordinator
 ark data centers

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 218-838-7553

As the Marketing Coordinator at ark data centers, previously Involta, I bring a wealth of experience in event coordination and strategic marketing initiatives. My journey in the marketing field has been marked by a collaborative spirit and an outgoing personality, which have been instrumental in excelling at project management and communication tasks. Since 2009, Duluth has been my home—a place where my passion for the outdoors comes alive with my fiancé and our beloved Golden Retriever, Jax.



DYLAN MERRIMAN
 Owner/CEO, Dylan Merriman Agency LLC -
 American Family Insurance

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 320-249-0550 (cell)
 218-722-1178 (office)

I am a small business owner in Duluth MN, having moved here from the St Cloud area in late 2015 to open my current agency here in Duluth. I am passionate about small business and the business climate overall and want to see business move forward. My wife and I have 5 sons, all adults that are sprinkled all over MN, with one son living in Fargo. We love the Duluth area and all the outdoor options it has to offer. In my spare time I do run to keep in shape, and we enjoy camping and love to travel as many places as we can.



KRISTI MOOS

Engagement Supervisor 3
Members Cooperative Credit Union

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Superior native Kristi Moos watched her father navigate the Roger Blough home beneath the Arial Lift Bridge and fell in love with Duluth’s Great Lake and the Twin Ports. Their admiration for Duluth’s magnificent lake and the Twin Ports as a whole has grown as a result of this experience. Her diversified and inclusive perspective has been cultivated over the course of her eight years in the finance sector and her six years working for a local non-profit. As a licensed financial counselor, Kristi has a strong interest in educating others about debt management, collaboration, and financial literacy. Leading her large Duluth team and interacting with them is another daily love of hers as an Engagement Specialist 3 at Members Cooperative Credit Union.



TRENT NOBLES

Senior Vice President
Essentia Health

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804-335-7494

I recently joined Essentia Health as the Senior VP of Operations for the East Market. I’m originally from South Carolina, and went to undergraduate at Clemson University and received my MHA at the Medical University of South Carolina. I have worked in Healthcare in SC, NC, and most recently Virginia. I am married to my lovely wife, Julie and have two sons, Dakin and Maddox. In my spare time, I enjoy playing golf, tennis, and pickleball and watching my Clemson Tigers play football.



MATT PAULSON

Finished Products Engineer
Cenovus Energy

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320-293-5797

I am an energetic chemical engineer who graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2020 and have remained in the beautiful Duluth area. With experience in the energy industry, I currently work for Cenovus Energy as the Finished Products Coordinator, where I specialize in blending finished products, managing fuel compliance, and optimizing refinery operations. In my free time, I enjoy hiking and camping along the North Shore, golfing, reading by Lake Superior, and networking with friends.



MACK PETERS

Development Director
Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines

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218-591-0703

I was raised in Two Harbors, MN, and have lived in Superior, WI, since moving to attend the University of Wisconsin, Superior, where I earned my bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. Shortly after graduating, I took a position as an adult recruitment and training specialist for the Girl Scouts of Minnesota Wisconsin Lakes and Pines. Since then, I have held positions in the council as a regional team leader in member support and the development manager, and currently, I am the development director for our council. Outside of my development work for the Girl Scouts, I love spending time outdoors. I guide river fishing trips on Lake Superior’s north and south shore tributaries for resident and migratory trout and salmon, hunt for upland birds in our beautiful state forests, and hike around our seemingly endless outdoor recreational areas encompassing our beautiful twin ports.

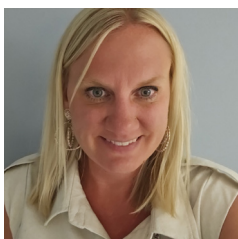


TAMMY RACKLIFFE (she/her)

Head of Schools
Duluth Edison Charter Schools

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218-348-9410

Tammy Rackliffe is the Head of Schools at Duluth Edison Charter Schools. She has been in education for over 30 years including teaching, principal, and Head of Schools. Tammy graduated from Moose Lake High School and received her bachelor's degree in Education at the College of St Scholastica. She pursued her master's degree in Educational Leadership at Concordia St. Paul and Principals certification at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Outside of work she likes to spend time camping, baking, cooking and crocheting.



ADRIENNE RADOVICH

Regional Director of Nursing
Essentia Health

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218-269-1515

Adrienne Radovich, Regional Director of Nursing at Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital in Superior, WI. She has worked at Essentia Health for 17 years in various nursing roles including bedside nursing in Med/Surg and Burn Intensive Care until 2017 when she started her journey in leadership. She has been the Regional Director of Nursing at Essentia Health in Superior, WI since 2020. Adrienne received her RN from Lake Superior College in 2010, her BSN from The College of St. Scholastica in 2018 and received her MBA in Rural Healthcare from the College of St. Scholastica in 2021. Adrienne lives in Hermantown, MN with her husband and dogs. Weekends are spent enjoying time at the cabin and boating on the lake.



PAUL RAJ

Director Clinic Operations
Aspirus St. Luke's

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218-310-6328

I am Paul Raj, Director Clinic Operations with Aspirus St. Luke's, and I have been with our organization for just over 15 years. I started off as a Clinic Manger at our Miller Creek locations and then was fortunate to move throughout the organization into some of our specialty clinics and then into my current role of Clinic Director. I am fortunate to work with a very diverse work forces that does amazing thing every day to support our community and folks that live within the community. I am looking forward to interacting with others within the leader group and understand their challenges and success they are having within their current organizations and how together we can make each other organizations stronger through our interactions.



JOY RASMUSSEN

Senior Investment Associate
RBC Wealth Management

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218-341-5094

Joy grew up in Duluth and graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2015. She is a Senior Investment Associate at RBC Wealth Management, where she works with families in their day-to-day financial life and helps them achieve their goals with tailored financial planning for each unique life situation. To better serve clients, she earned the Certified Financial Planner™ designation, the Series 7, Series 66, and Life/Health insurance licenses. Joy loves to be actively involved volunteering in the Duluth community. She is grateful to those who have served in the U.S. military and values every opportunity to honor veterans by singing the National Anthem at memorial events. She serves on the music team at her church and enjoys volunteering at local assisted living and nursing homes. Joy can often be found with friends running on Duluth's trails, roads, and at local races.



CLAYTON RICH

Director of Sales & Marketing
Wescom Inc.

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218-491-3114

My name is Clayton Rich and I am the Director of Sales & Marketing for Wescom in Duluth. With the exception of attending Bethel University in St. Paul, MN for my degree in Business and Communication, I am a proud lifelong resident of the Twin Ports. Over the years, I've had an amazing opportunity to build incredible relationships with area businesses and business professionals. This region offers an amazing economic impact to our economy and I am proud to be a part of it. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, going to our cabin and enjoying classic cars. I am also a Duluth Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, member of my local township government, leader for my sons Cub Scout Troop and a coach for youth sports.



CHAD ROBERTS

Facility Manager
A&L Properties

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I'm a lifetime resident of Duluth and graduated from Central High School in 2006.



LYRIC ROSATTI *(he/him)*

Supervisor, Pneumatic Systems
Cirrus Aircraft

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I lead the Pneumatic Systems Engineering team within New Product Development at Cirrus Aircraft. My team is responsible for developing systems that directly contribute to our customer's comfort and safety. Prior to joining Cirrus in 2012, I attended Montana State University in Bozeman where I received a BSME in 2009 and a MSME in 2012. I am originally from Hibbing, Minnesota. Outside of work, my wife and I enjoy traveling and cooking, raising our one-year-old child, and our two cats Yuzu and Kyoto. I also enjoy gravel and mountain biking. I've previously been involved in FIRST Robotics as a mentor for a few years at Marshall High School, and a Judge for several years at the regional tournament held at the DECC.



WENDY RUNNING *(she/her)*

Program Manager
Burns & McDonnell

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Hi! I'm Wendy. I lead a program team made up of project managers and project controls staff who manage construction projects on electrical infrastructure. I am originally from the Iron Range, born and raised in Virginia, MN. I moved to Duluth in 2005 to attend UMD where I obtained a degree in Finance. I've worked in project management for 12 years, earning an MBA and a PMP certification along the way. I'm married to Greg, a realtor. We have two kids: Kenlee (7) and Mikko (3). I like to take walks with our dog, Murphy, do word puzzles, and play sand volleyball. I am also an event planning volunteer for Ronald McDonald House Charities.



CHRISTINE SAWYER

Medical Group Senior Enlisted Leader
148th Fighter Wing

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I serve as the Medical Group Senior Enlisted Leader at the 148th Fighter Wing in the Air National Guard, overseeing medical support, operations, and health management. My Air National Guard journey began in 2004, following a career as a Personnel Specialist. I've also delved into Finance and Public Health career fields. My educational achievements range from Associates degrees in Human Resources, Financial Management, Public Health from the Community College of the Air Force to a Bachelor's in Business Management from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and four children, who keep me busy at the hockey arena throughout the year.



KATE SINNER *(she/hers)*

Environmental Engineer
Barr Engineering

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I am an eastern North Dakota native who came to Duluth for graduate school ten years ago and now calls this city home. My day job is as an environmental engineer - I work with water quality regulations for Barr Engineering. Outside of my job, I love to absorb all that Duluth and the Northwoods have to offer. My husband, young daughter, two dogs, and I live on the far west side of Duluth. It's been really exciting to see the growing community excitement in our neighborhood in recent years!



JOHN SKIBA

Career and Life Coach Manager
Udac

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I'm originally from Rochester, MN and one of those people that came to Duluth for school, really enjoyed everything the area has to offer, and never ended up leaving. I have my bachelor's degree in cognitive science and psychology, and I've been working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the last three years at Udac. I have more of a background in tech before I switched over to human services, and still enjoy all the related geeky things. I also like to spend time outdoors with our two huskies, gardening, cooking, traveling and trying new foods or restaurants.



JACKIE SORVARI

Senior Financial Analyst
LHB, INC.

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As a Senior Financial Analyst for Duluth-based A/E firm, LHB, Inc., I prepare and analyze financial statements and performance, always driving for insights, efficiencies, and technological advantages. A Duluth/Hermantown native, I hold a degree in accounting along with an MBA. I work with our Project Managers, Clients (public and private), Subcontractors, and Senior Leaders on a regular basis. Outside of work, I enjoy my time with family (husband, two daughters, and two dogs) and friends, going boating, fishing, having campfires, and attending sporting events.



NICOLE STATON *(she/her)*
Junior League of Duluth

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I am a lover of life and trying new things. Nature, art, reading, and music are a big part of who I am, as well as giving of my time to help make a better world for those around me. Family is the most important thing to me, both the one I was born into, and the one I create with who I choose to surround myself with. The work that I do for various non-profits, including Junior League of Duluth, help me feel fulfilled. I also enjoy my job as a Project Manager Team Lead at an environmental lab. I have a wonderful husband, 2 cats, and 1 dog. I don't have any children of my own, but my niece is one of my favorite people!



ANGIE STIER
Economic Developer
City of Duluth

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I've been working as an Economic Developer for the City of Duluth for the past year. My primary focus is on small business development, expansions and ensuring that our local small businesses have a voice in City Hall. Part of my work is staffing the Duluth 1200 Fund where gap financing supports small business do more along with DEDA's Small Business Match grant program. Prior to my work in Duluth, I assisted small communities with their economic development projects and also enjoyed working as a Landscape Designer for many years.

My family and I moved to Duluth from Southern Minnesota in December of 2022 in support of my husband's work as a local engineering consultant. Along with our two young kids, Lewis and Aurora, we also have two orange pets, Edmond Fitz Stier the cat and Nella the Mini Goldendoodle. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, biking, getting on the boat and working in my garden.



SAM TORVINEN *(he/him)*
Senior Project Manager
The Boldt Company

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Hello! My name is Sam Torvinen and I am a Senior Project Manager with The Boldt Company. The Boldt Company is a Generator Contractor that works in all industries and projects from commercial building remodels to mining maintenance work to construction of new power plants - and everything in between. There is no project too small or too large for us to take on.

I am a life long Duluthian and graduated from Duluth East HS and UMD. I currently live in West Duluth with my wife and our 3 month old daughter Aurora. Outside of work I spend my time with friends and family and investing in real estate. I am excited for the opportunity to connect with other leaders in our community and grow our leadership skills together!



NADINE WELLS
 Director of Veterans Service Office
 St. Louis County Minnesota

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Directly after high school I joined the Minnesota Army National Guard. I served ten years in total with the last half of those years in a fulltime status. Upon discharging from the military, I knew I wanted to continue pursuing a career that focused on assisting Servicemembers, Veterans and their families. Just months after discharge I accepted a position as the Military Family Assistance Specialist in the Duluth Office. In this position I was able to connect and build strong relationships with fellow community organizations that assist and support the needs of our military community. In 2017 I found an opportunity to gain personal growth and continue to serve our local community and its members as a Veteran Service Officer with St. Louis County. Most recently in November of 2023, I received the honor of being appointed as the Director of the St. Louis County Veterans Service Office. I look forward to connecting with others and learning every day.



LISA WHEELER *(she/her)*
 Access & Collection Services Team Manager, Kathryn A. Martin
 Library, University of Minnesota Duluth

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 734-883-1274

I am the manager of the Access & Collection Services Team at the Kathryn A. Martin Library at the University of Minnesota Duluth. The team I manage is responsible for circulation services, interlibrary loan, electronic resources, acquisitions, cataloging, course reserves, stacks maintenance, and oversight of the building. One of my primary responsibilities is ensuring excellent library service to the university and broader Duluth communities. I have lived in Duluth for about 7 years, moving here for a job at UMD in 2017. Prior to living in Duluth, I lived in Miami, FL, Seattle, WA, and Ann Arbor, MI. I grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. For me, Duluth is the perfect balance of a vibrant community with lots of opportunities and activities plus the scenic beauty of the northern Great Lakes region.



THOMAS WITT
 Attorney
 Fryberger Law Firm

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I am an attorney at the Fryberger Law Firm in Duluth. I grew up in Duluth and returned after attending the University of Minnesota. I have spent my professional career here, working as a law clerk before joining Fryberger. Aside from the lake and the trails, my favorite part of Duluth is the sense of community.

LEADERSHIP DULUTH STEERING COMMITTEE



KATHLEEN PRIVETTE

Director of Events & Board Operations
Program Director of Leadership Duluth
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
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Daniel Fanning
Vice President of Policy & Strategy, Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director, Duluth Area Chamber Foundation

Tiffany Hughes (*Class of 2024*)
CEO, A&L Properties

Nic Hanson (*Class of 2024*)
Student Readiness and Success Coordinator, Proctor High School

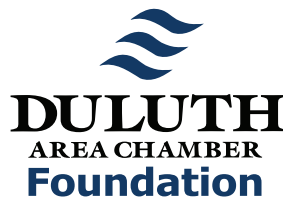
Leah Kohlts
Director of External Relations & Community Resources, Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce

Aili Ratike (*Class of 2023*)
Trust Executive, North Shore Bank



Moving business forward. ▶

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce has continuously served as the region's premier advocate for commerce and industry since 1870. Through facilitating interaction among business, government, education, labor and the greater community, the Duluth Area Chamber has actively been creating innovative opportunities for business to advance within local and global economies. With approximately 1,000 members throughout the region, the Duluth Area Chamber is one of the largest and most influential Chambers in the state.



The Duluth Area Chamber Foundation was established in 2022. As the legal 501(c)(3) fundraising arm of the Duluth Area Chamber, funds from the Foundation may be used to help support local businesses and the community with initiatives like public policy and advocacy work, workforce development and recruitment, market based research, equity and inclusion work, economic development, funding for the Duluth Area Chamber's Military Affairs Committee (MAC) and Policy Committee, and programs like Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol, Leadership Duluth and more.

NOTES

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DULUTH**
Duluth Area Chamber Foundation



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