

PORTAGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL

THE ACTIVE VOICE

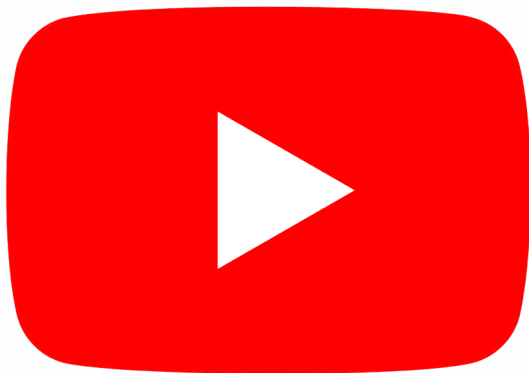
Ambassadors Give Back
Business After Hours
Ag Tour

AUGUST 2023



Special thanks to July's Business X-Change host
Simplicity Credit Union & Exclamation Services!

**Check out our new video series
'Monday Mornings with Mike'
on YouTube!**



CLICK HERE

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"A talented workforce is the foundation for growth and future success."

We Are COMMUNITY

by Michael Witte, Executive Director, Portage County Business Council

This past weekend we chose to really extend ourselves and cover a lot of ground. We started with Paws for a Cause in the Village of Biron (yes, I crossed the county line) Then it was off to the Tater Toot in Almond. I know you might giggle at the name but it has been going on for 57 years, and for the record, the last time I was there I was 5 years old. Then we headed to Amherst for Ribs on the River with Beard Brothers BBQ/ The Local Goat Company and a fund raiser for Lanae. Then on to Celebrate Plover for more community fun and fireworks!

Suddenly it hit me. THIS is about Community. I know how I define community but how do others define Community. There are literally thousands of definitions of Community so I looked for one that comes close and I found this list defined by a gentleman, Richard Millington. He defines five Different Types of Communities:

Interest. Communities of people who share the same interest or passion.

Action. Communities of people trying to bring about change.

Place. Communities of people brought together by geographic boundaries.

Practice. Communities of people in the same profession or undertake the same activities.

Circumstance. Communities of people brought together by external events/situations.

Every day I feel blessed to be in this community! I am very committed to working with businesses to help them grow, expand and succeed. I love my neighbors and neighborhood. I love being able to shop in all of the communities that make up Portage County. I love all of our community events where groups of people pull together for the success of the Community.

There community organizations like Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lions, Optimists, Rotary the list goes on and on. There are people that are catalyst for change. Some people fear change because we get set in our own ways and get comfortable. There is nothing wrong with that; however, change will happen regardless. Our communities are the center of our own world, our comfort zone.

Last month I challenged you, the readers to expand your reach, Explore our Communities. Here at the Portage County Business Council we started a new program to introduce to the Community as a whole Businesses and Events going on every week! It is called Monday Morning with Mike. You can Follow us on Insta-gram and Face Book or Subscribe to us on You Tube! Learn, Grow and Experience Our Community. Portage County is a Great Place to Live Work and Thrive, share it with other!

Until next time

Stay Tuned



Business X-Change

What is Business X-Change?
A presentation which allows business owners and their employees the opportunity to discuss pertinent topics, learn from local industry leaders and, most importantly, learn from each other. Business X-Change meets monthly from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Business X-Change

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

7:30 am – 8:30 am

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register

- This program will be offered in person at PCBC.
- While there is no cost to attend, the value of the information is priceless.
- Coffee and danish provided.

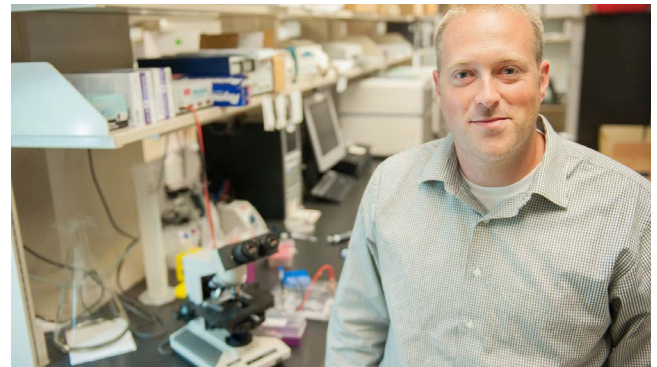
Topic: The All of Us Research Program: Shaping the future of healthcare in communities through precision medicine research

About the Program: The All of Us Research Program is a research study designed to advance precision medicine research. Precision medicine is a form of health care meant to treat patients more precisely based on who they are as individuals. The All of Us Research Program is the largest biomedical research study ever conducted and Marshfield Clinic Health System has a goal of recruiting 100,000 or more participants in our communities and across the state. During the presentation, attendees will learn about the scope of the research study and how individuals in our communities who enroll can gain information that may one day influence their care including how our genes impact the medications we take.

Key Points included:

- How to change health research to represent our country's diversity.
- More about your health including information about your DNA.
- About speed up discoveries in health research.

About our Presenter: Dr. Scott Hebring is a research scientist in genetics at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, Marshfield Clinic. He is the principle investigator and head of the Wisconsin Consortium for the All of Us Research Program, Wisconsin.



Scott Hebring
*Marshfield Clinic Research Institute,
Marshfield Clinic*

Special THANK YOU to Marshfield Clinic Health System / All of Us Research Program for their sponsorship of this program.



**Marshfield Clinic
Health System**

Business *after* Hours

A Portage County Business Council Event

**Tuesday
Aug. 15,
5 - 7 pm**

RSVP by
Monday, Aug 14, 2023

The event will also incorporate our Partners in Education (PIE) Social. The partnership with business and education is so critical to our community we want to dedicate one of our socials to that cause. Please help us welcome educators from throughout Central Wisconsin by attending this event.

ANDERSON O'BRIEN LLP

ATTORNEYS SINCE 1886

**Hosted by: Anderson O'Brien Law Firm
1257 Main Street (Downtown)
Stevens Point, WI**

Please join the team of Anderson O'Brien for Business After Hours. Enjoy this outdoor event with delicious complimentary food catered by Father Fats including sliders, crab bouillottes, pork empanadas, bacon & cheddar tots, Artisan cheese board & so much more. Signature cocktails, beer, wine & non-alcoholic options, door prizes including baskets and local gift cards, and a 50/50 raffle will be played.

WHAT IS BUSINESS AFTER HOURS? A social event designed for and hosted by Business Council members to give business professionals an opportunity to network, share ideas and have their facility seen by other members. The member host(s) furnishes refreshments and hors d'oeuvres for the evening. A different Business Council member hosts Business After Hours every month. Members are welcome to co-host the event with another Business Council member. Members should call to book the month they are interested in hosting as early as possible. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

**[CLICK HERE TO](#)
REGISTER ONLINE**

For questions contact Karen Myers:
715-344-1940
karenm@portagecountybiz.com

UPCOMING BUSINESS AFTER HOURS DATES

ALL EVENTS ARE THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

September 19 - Prevail Bank

October 17 - Fall Line Outfitters

November 14 - NRG Media

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

2:00PM to 6:00PM

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center,
1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point



Do you have a job vacancy that you need to fill? Are you looking for talented new employees? If so, the Portage County Business Council Job Fair may be the event to help you!

REGISTER HERE

For questions contact Karen Myers:
715-344-1940
karenm@portagecountybiz.com

Premier Business Booth Sponsor \$300 (PCBC Member Investors ONLY)

- Preferred Display Table Location
- Up to 2 people per booth
- Exhibitor Lounge with free refreshments
- Company Logo on Day of Event Floor Map Distributed to all Attendees of Show and Exhibitors
- Social Media Posting
- PCBC Website Listing including Company Logo and link to Company Website
- Logo on other Event Marketing Materials

Business Booth Sponsor \$200 (PCBC Member Investors ONLY)

- Display table
- Up to 2 people per booth
- Exhibitor Lounge with free refreshments
- Company name on Day of Event Floor Map distributed to all Attendees of Show and Exhibitors
- PCBC Website Listing
- Company name on other Event Marketing Materials

Non-Member Business Booth \$250 (Non PCBC Member Investors)

- PCBC Website Listing
- Up to 2 people per booth
- Exhibitor Lounge with free refreshments

Photos from 2022 Job Fair courtesy of Dr9gon Media



Special Thanks to our Media Sponsor of the event:



Women in BUSINESS

A Portage County Business Council Event



Special thanks to our Media Sponsor:
Midwest Communications Radio Group

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 20, 2023

11:15AM to 1:00PM

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center



Presented by Van Horn
Nissan of Stevens Point

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION](#)

\$31 for PCBC Members

\$36 for Prospective PCBC Members

Women in Business is open to the public.

We are excited to share that Casey Demers, Director of Business Development from The Boldt Company, will be our keynote speaker presenting "Thriving in a Gender Bias Industry: Stepping Up and Stepping In". As a "woman in construction" Casey finds it invaluable to share what a role in her industry means, as well as all others in a non-traditional gender biased role or industry. Specifically, the construction industry as a whole recently celebrated 1 million women in the construction industry for the FIRST TIME EVER, over 14% in the industry!

Event will include a delicious lunch, door prizes giveaways, swag bag full of goodies, and a 50/50 raffle. Don't miss the fun!

For questions contact Karen Myers:
715-344-1940
karenm@portagecountybiz.com



We are excited to share that Casey Demers from The Boldt Company will be our special guest speaker.

Special thanks for our Centerpiece Sponsors
– CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Ho-Chunk Gaming
Nekoosa and Maher Water Corporation

Special thanks to our
Swag Bag Sponsor –
Aspirus Health



Ambassadors Give Back

We love to see our members and all Portage County businesses thrive and grow!



Congratulations to Peoples State Bank on opening their new full-service bank branch at 138 McDill Avenue, near the intersection of McDill Avenue and Post Road, Whiting. On July 12th, members of our Ambassadors Club, Mayor Wiza and PCBC staff helped celebrate with a ribbon cutting. The new location includes a drive-up Video Teller ATM that you need to check out!



On July 17th our Ambassadors Club, PCBC staff and Mayor Wiza visited REBEL beauty, 1216 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point. We helped owner Stephanie Darner celebrate her grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Stop by the boutique day spa offering lash, brow, nail, permanent makeup, and skin care services. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Deborah Adams and her team on breaking ground for what will be the new The Wellness School - Wisconsin's first clinical massage therapy school located on the grounds of The Wellness Spa - Stevens Point, 3916 Water Street. On July 19th members of our Ambassadors Club and PCBC staff took part in their ground-breaking ceremony to celebrate. Details can be found at www.wellnessschool.net.



Congratulations to ODC, Inc. on their grand opening of their new outpatient mental health clinic satellite location at 2801 Hoover Road, Unit 1D, Stevens Point (located in the Inclusa Community Non-Profit Center). On July 21st members of our Ambassadors Club, PCBC staff, ODC Board of Directors and community members helped their team celebrate with a ribbon cutting.



On July 24th members of our Ambassadors Club, PCBC staff, Senator Testin, Representative Shankland, Mayor Wiza, and other community volunteers came out to commission the solar array at The Salvation Army Hope Center, 1600 Briggs Street, Stevens Point. Congratulations to the partners involved in this project - Rotary Club of Greater Portage County, Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin, Northwind Solar, Solar For Good and The Salvation Army Hope Center! Through a grant from the Solar For Good Program, they were able to install a 7-kilowatt array in the Salvation Army's backyard.

Meet our **Ambassadors**

Melissa Blenker

**Community Insurance
& Associates**

Where do you work?

I am the co-owner of Community Insurance & Associates, located at 5474 US Highway 10E, Suite 2, Stevens Point.

How long have you been an Ambassador?

I've been an Ambassador since 2017.

What do you enjoy the most about being an Ambassador?

I love to congratulate new businesses on their hard work and dedication to opening and celebrate with current businesses on expansions and changes. It's also wonderful to get out into the community to meet new people at each event. It seems that I find new places to share with others that I never would have ventured out to before. Our group of ambassadors are friendly and welcoming and make it fun to be a part of the group!

What is your most memorable moment from a ribbon cutting or PCBC event?

In 2020 I was able to be the ambassador spokesperson, wife, and insurance agent at the opening of my husband's new location for Blenker Construction in Stevens Point. That was very special to celebrate with him and his family.

What is one interesting fact about you that most people do not know?

I've turned into a chicken lady the past year! We built a coop and now have about 25 chickens putting out over a dozen eggs a day! It's really rewarding to have those fresh eggs to share with family and friends.

What is your favorite activity to do in Portage County?

I LOVE to golf and currently hold the club champion title at the Stevens Point Country Club! We have a lot of great golf opportunities in central Wisconsin! I'm trying to expose my 4 children to the game and hope they grow to love it too!



Member to Member Deals



Purple Basil is an Italian inspired food truck offering catering services with and without the truck! We offer a variety of delicious, freshly made dishes for your corporate event. We are dedicated to creating a menu that will make your event unforgettable. From appetizers to entrées, whatever your needs may be, we can provide the perfect culinary experience!

Whether it be for employee appreciation, work lunch meetings, company picnics or just a group order for lunch, we can customize a menu for any occasion. PCBC members receive 10% off up to \$50 on our services, meal deliveries have a 10 meal minimum. PCBC Members will receive an extra month when you subscribe to the Social Media Master or Branding Boss Session before December 31st.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE
INFORMATION](#)**

SAVE THE DATE

WINES OF THE WORLD

Friday, October 27, 2023

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention
Center, Stevens Point



RECEIVE A FREE MONTH OF PROMOTION WITH

DRIP MEDIA

WHEN YOU JOIN THE PORTAGE COUNTY
BUSINESS COUNCIL IN JULY OR AUGUST



Contact ChloeK@portagecountybiz.com
for more information

TUESDAY
AUGUST 22, 2023
11:30AM to 4:00PM



*Special thanks to our
Presenting Sponsors:*



Del Monte Foods, Inc.

Don't miss Ag Tour 2023! Planned by the Agri-Business Committee of the Portage County Business Council, you and your business associates are invited to attend.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with registration and lunch at O'so Brewing Company, 1800 Plover Road (located in the Artist & Fare complex), Plover, WI. The buffet style lunch will feature a variety of delicious homemade pizzas, pasta salad, potato chips, dessert and refreshments. During lunch, a guest speaker presentation will take place.

After lunch, we will head to Flyte Family Farm, family-owned business for over 40 years, located in Coloma, WI.

Then we return to O'so Brewing Company for optional socializing and cash bar. O'so Brewing Company was founded in 2007 in Plover, WI by Marc and Katina Buttera. O'so has been declared the 2nd fastest growing brewery in the state and won its first Great American Beer Festival Gold Medal Award for its year-round beer, The Big O.

AG TOUR 2023

Ag Tour 2023 is open to anyone interested in learning more about local agri-business. For questions contact Karen Myers at 715-344-1940 or karenm@portagecountybiz.com.

REGISTER HERE

Ag Tour 2023 Agenda:

11:30AM - Registration and Buffet Lunch

12:00PM - Guest Speaker

1:30PM - Tour of Flyte Family Farm

4:00PM - Cash Bar & Networking at O'so Brewing (optional), Event Concludes

Please note TOUR RULES / DRESS CODE:

-- Casual Wear

-- Closed Toed Shoes Only (NO sandals or flip flops)

-- No jewelry (such as facial piercings, earrings or necklaces)

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to our In-Kind
Site Sponsor:*



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(Partners in Education)



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Contact Us

Holly Fox, Director of Professional Development

715-344-1940

hollyf@portagecountybiz.com

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(grades 9-12)

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Interviews

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Speakers

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Mentoring
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Business
Tours

welcome

New Members - July 2023

REACH

They are a single-source, communications technology partner that keeps you connected.

1710 Garfield Ave Wausau, WI 54401

715-298-4414

Email: rkaiser@reachconnects.com Website: [REACH](https://reachconnects.com)



HO - CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG

A local gaming and entertainment destination with lodging and dining available.

N7198 US Hwy 45 Wittenberg, WI 54499

866-910-0150

Email: tracy-pecore@ho-chunk.com Website: [Ho-Chunk Wittenberg](https://ho-chunk.com)



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An Indie Book Store that provides new releases and popular titles, prioritizing authors, experiences, and stories not represented in the community, and to create an amazing space!

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Julie Bonasso

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HAPPY MEMBERVERSARY

To all of our investors who renewed in July

Almond-Bancroft School District

Remedy Intelligent Staffing

Bria Bella & Co.

Rockman's Catering


Cobblestone Hotel & Suites

Rosholt School District

Mary Kay, Wendy Haas

The Dirks Group

Northwind Solar



Please feel free to walk around the office and inquire
to staff if you'd like to purchase an art piece.

ART FOR SALE AT PORTAGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL



All the art at PCBC is for sale &
artists receive 100% commission

Please contact Chloe at
chloek@portagecountybiz.com with
any questions.



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY 2023 SCHEDULE

**At Portage County Business Council
5501 Vern Holmes Drive**

11:00 am -2:00 pm



June 2nd - Purple Basil

June 23rd - Gifted Hands Kitchen

***July 7th - Purple Basil**

***July 21st - Gifted Hands Kitchen**

***August 4th - Purple Basil**

***August 11th - Gifted Hands Kitchen**

***September 1st - Purple Basil**

***September 8th - UWSP Food Truck**

***September 15th - Gifted Hands Kitchen**

***October 6th - Purple Basil**

***Car Spa Mobile Detailing will be present**



LIMITED TIME ONLY

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**12 Month Intro Rate
Money Market Offer**

5.00%
APY

SCHEDULE MEETING

Member FDIC 

Contact US!

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Portage County Business Council



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