

# GIAEDC & CHAMBER 2026 MEMBERSHIP GUIDE



**Grand Island Area**

Economic Development Corporation  
& Chamber of Commerce

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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your investment in the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce.

Your membership reflects a shared commitment to a strong, competitive business environment in Grand Island. Through your support, we are able to focus on business recruitment and expansion, workforce development, talent attraction, and strategic growth that positions our community for long-term success.

Economic development and chamber efforts are driven by outcomes—supporting employers, strengthening the local economy, and creating conditions where businesses can grow and invest with confidence. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, its impact is measurable and far-reaching.

We appreciate your partnership and your belief in Grand Island's potential. Together, we are building a resilient economy and a business climate that supports opportunity today and into the future.

*Jack*



**JACK HENRY**  
2026 Board Chair  
Indianhead Golf Course

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for your continued support of the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce. Your membership is a strategic investment in the future of our community. Our work is focused on strengthening Grand Island's business environment in ways that create lasting impact. We work to ensure businesses have the support they need, that new opportunities are positioned to take root, and that our community remains competitive and prepared for what's next.

An investment in the GIAEDC and Chamber is not transactional, and it is not measured by immediate return. It is a long-term commitment to the health and vitality of Grand Island. Your support allows us to think beyond short-term wins and focus on sustainable growth that benefits businesses, workers, and residents alike.

Because of your partnership, we can be proactive, responsive, and intentional in our efforts to move Grand Island forward. We are grateful for your trust and engagement, and we look forward to continuing this work together.

*Mary*



**MARY BERLIE**  
President  
GIAEDC & Chamber

# MEET YOUR GIAEDC & CHAMBER STAFF

**Mary Berlie**  
President



**Becky Rother**  
Outreach and Development



**Amanda Moritz**  
Housing



**Emily Laudenklos**  
Workforce Development



**Grant Cope**  
Business Relations



**Jessica Salinas**  
Marketing and Communications



**Grand Island Area**  
Economic Development Corporation  
& Chamber of Commerce

123 N Locust Street, Suite 201B  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
308.381.7500

# MEET YOUR 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jack Henry**  
2026 Chair  
Indianhead Golf Club



**Paul McKinney**  
Vice Chair  
Eakes Office Solutions



**Kyle Overturf**  
Secretary/ Treasurer  
AMGL, P.C.



**Justin Pfenning**  
At- Large  
Dramco Tool Co.



**Mark Allen**  
At- Large  
Allen Capital Group



**Will Armstrong**  
At- Large  
Edward Jones



**Dustin Alexander**  
CNH Industrial



**Blake Corman**  
Grand Auto Sales



**Beth Frerichs**  
Chief Industries



**Jason Hornady**  
Hornady  
Manufacturing



**Heidi Isley**  
Associated Staffing



**Brian Levander**  
Levander's  
Automotive



**Kristen Maser**  
Five Points Bank



**Jason Morledge**  
Credit Management  
Services



**Jeff Palik**  
Olsson



**Kirk Palmer**  
Corteva Agri  
Sciences



**Scott Rief**  
Rizer



**Chad Sheffield**  
Allen Capital  
Group



**Tami Towne**  
Ryder- Rosacker-  
McCue & Houston

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## 2025 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Central Nebraska Regional Airport

## LB840 DOLLARS

\$1,380,000 in 2025  
Vermeer High Plains, YWCA, Dramco Tool Co.,  
Hear Grand Island, My Town Docuseries, and  
Business Blueprint

## 2025 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Roger Bullington  
Chief Industries, Inc.

## INDUSTRIAL PARKS

600+ acres owned and operated ready for  
Industrial use  
5+ Business Parks in Grand Island



## EVENTS HOSTED

47 Young Professional Events  
21 Business After Hours  
30 Ribbon Cuttings



## RURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING FUNDS

6.7 Million in Revolving  
Loan Funds



## MEMBERSHIP

Over 250 membership meetings  
600+ members strong  
78+ new members



## NEBRASKA AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS

1,500,000 in Grants



## WAYNE STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS

1.5% of all WSC Alumni live in Grand Island  
8 WSC Students Living and Working their Senior  
Year in Grand Island



## ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT

13 Business Blueprint Grads  
\$15,000 for Big Idea Grand Island Winners



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Over 2.7 million views on EDC/ Chamber Socials  
Over 685,075 views on TikTok  
Over 10,000 followers on socials  
40% open rate on emails



## HARVEST OF HARMONY

83 High School Marching Bands  
86 Floats  
4,838 Students Marched



# SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



Ribbon Cuttings are a great way to celebrate milestones. A new business, remodel or expansion, new location, product or service launch, leadership change, or any occasion is worth celebrating. Ribbon Cuttings are typically held at your place of business, with a representative providing remarks and the event streamed live on Facebook. Our GIAEDC / Chamber Connectors will be on site to help celebrate this success with you.

## INDUSTRY TOURS

Our Industry Tours connects students, educators, and professional groups with Grand Island's thriving business and manufacturing community. In partnership with local employers, we offer immersive experiences that showcase career opportunities, innovative industries, and the real-world work environment in our city.

These experiences help participants see what a career—and a life—can look in Grand Island. From students exploring future paths to professionals learning about local talent pipelines, tours connect meaningful work with the community, amenities, and quality of life that make Grand Island a place to build a future.



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Business After Hours create a welcoming environment where businesses can share what they do best while connecting with the Grand Island community. Open to both professionals and the public, these events are designed to spark conversation, build relationships, and strengthen local connections.

Hosts are encouraged to share promotional materials and showcase their business in a way that fits their goals. Each Business After Hours is unique—some feature an open-house atmosphere, while others include brief presentations or guided tours. Hosts often provide drinks and light snacks, creating a relaxed environment that encourages conversation, networking, and relationship-building.

# PUBLIC EVENTS

## HARVEST OF HARMONY

Celebrate the 84th year of one of Nebraska's largest parades! Held the first Saturday in October, this historic event features more than 90 bands and 80 float entries from across the state, filling Downtown Grand Island with energy and tradition.

The parade is broadcast live and hosted downtown by local celebrities, adding to the excitement of the day. Nearly 30 bands also take the field to compete in marching performances at Grand Island Senior High's Memorial Field.

Parade float entry fee: \$150.

## STATE OF THE CITY

Hosted by the Grand Island Young Professionals, this event gives our community a first hand look at what our local leaders have in store for upcoming events, changes, growth, and resources.

## BIG IDEA GRAND ISLAND

Our local version of Shark Tank where there's a grand prize of \$10,000! Ideas are submitted in advance, narrowed down to a group of finalists, and ideas are pitched LIVE in front of an audience and panel of judges. Pitches are fast and furious with a presentation of only two minutes. Each pitch is then followed by a Q&A. There are cash prizes for the top 3 ideas that is narrowed down by the audience and judges.

## LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF

As local Nebraska State Senators and the Governor prepare for the upcoming legislative session, GIAEDC & Chamber partners are invited to hear about upcoming legislative priorities and be part of a Q&A Session.

## HEAR GRAND ISLAND

Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year of Hear Grand Island- this summer concert series runs every Friday night for 6 weeks in downtown Grand Island at the Amur Plaza. Hear FREE live music from all types of genres all night long! [Sponsorship Opportunities Available]

# TICKETED EVENTS

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is Grand Island's premier business and networking event that draws over 500 partners together. The event features presentations of the awards and an impactful keynote speaker. Join us in June to celebrate all the previous year and all our communities success. [Sponsorship Opportunities Available]

## GOLF OUTING

The Golf Outing is one of our most popular networking events. This event is held in July at Indianhead Golf Course and consists of 18-hole game with a shotgun start. The Golf Outing is very popular and has an annual sellout! The Golf Outing committee helps promote and secure flag sponsors and raffle prizes for this annual event. [Sponsorship Opportunities Available]

# EDC/CHAMBER INITIATIVES

When you invest in the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce, you are not purchasing a tangible product or direct service in return. Instead, your membership is an investment in the long-term strength and vitality of our community.

Every dollar you contribute is strategically leveraged to support business growth, workforce development, and economic opportunities that benefit Grand Island as a whole. This work helps strengthen our local economy, enhances quality of life, and creates an environment where businesses can grow and succeed.

Your support makes it possible to do the important work that no single business can do alone—building a stronger, more resilient community for today and for generations to come.

## BUILD GRAND ISLAND

Build Grand Island leverages Rural Workforce Housing Funds [RWHF] to assist housing developers to revitalize, rehabilitate, and add to the housing stock in the Grand Island area. Developers are offered a 0% construction loan for 24 months for their builds. Build Grand Island has contributed to 29 owner occupied homes, 33 rental properties, and 22 lots. Build Grand Island also leverages Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds [NAHTF] to help build 59 rental units with 15 of them being income qualified.



## DEVELOPMENTAL PROPERTY

Grand Island has a number of existing, and build-to-suit properties that are perfect for any business and industry. GIAEDC owns and operates industrial park property at Platte Valley Industrial Park- East, and Cornhusker Industrial Park. Our area partners operate Southern Public Power's Energy Park, Central Nebraska Regional Airport's Business and Technology Park, and Chief Industries' Wildwood Business Park. These parks along with commercial real estate provide all the essential ingredients for a successful venture.

**DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation  
GREAT PEOPLE. BETTER OPPORTUNITIES.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
**GRANDISLAND.ORG**  
**308-381-7500**

LOT 1	LOT 3	LOT 5
146,838 S.F. 3.366 AC.	119,205 S.F. 2.743 AC.	119,205 S.F. 2.743 AC.
LOT 2	LOT 4	LOT 6
105,332 S.F. 2.418 AC.	88,205 S.F. 2.025 AC.	88,205 S.F. 2.025 AC.

220 Additional Acres Available

## LB840

Local Option [LB840] is the business recruitment incentive offered by the City of Grand Island with Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation being the grant administrator. LB840 is a cash payment made directly to your company to assist in expansion and relocation efforts. A structured payment is approved by Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation's Board of Trustees and Grand Island City Council.



# EDC/CHAMBER INITIATIVES



Connectors are the “keys” to the community. This active group hosts Ribbon Cuttings, Groundbreaking Ceremonies, and Business After Hours. Becoming a Connector creates an opportunity to develop professionally through networking, community involvement, training, and partnership outreach.



Move to Grand Island is our community-driven initiative designed to attract and retain top talent in Grand Island, Nebraska. Through a dedicated website and active social media channels, we showcase the city’s vibrant lifestyle, career opportunities, and welcoming community. From thriving downtown events and local dining to excellent schools and outdoor recreation, we highlight what makes Grand Island the perfect place to live, work, and grow.

Check out our Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok: @grand\_lifeonthe\_island or website at [www.movetograndisland.com](http://www.movetograndisland.com).



Shop Local is a collaborative effort with Grow Grand Island that seeks to educate and motivate our community to think and look locally first when making buying decisions. The initiative includes messaging campaigns, the Small Business Week and Small Business Saturday.



The Grand Island Young Professionals [YP] is dedicated to cultivating a young, vibrant, professional community in the Grand Island area through networking, volunteering, and educational opportunities. By helping young professionals connect with their peers, the potential for inclusion, service, and leadership is enhanced. This group is open to those from ages 21-40.



The GIAEDC & Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Wayne State College to facilitate cooperative program that will allow college seniors to complete a 9- month internship in Grand Island with a local business for college credit. The goal is to shift the projected decline of the prime-age workforce through the recruitment and retention of high-skill, high-demand, high-wage workers. WSC interns live and work in Grand Island from August to May. Reach out if you’re interested in hiring an intern!



Hear Grand Island is a free, summer-long concert series that brings live music to the heart of downtown Grand Island. In partnership with local organizations, we help create unforgettable Friday nights filled with great performances, community connection, and a lively downtown atmosphere. This series is more than music, it’s a celebration of the people, culture, and energy that make Grand Island thrive.

# YOUR INVESTMENT

## NON-PROFIT

**\$365**

Charitable organizations and small 501(c)3 with fewer than five employees or with an annual budget under \$250,000.

## COMMUNITY

**\$500**

Businesses looking to join at an introductory level on a path to growth.

## BUILDER

**\$1,000**

Small to midsize companies that are celebrated pillars in the region; Builders are frequent sponsors, speakers, and recognized leaders of events and programs.

## PREMIER

**\$10,000**

Midsize and larger companies that are established leaders in their industry. Premier members are high-level sponsors, event hosts, and powerful contributors to our programs. Employees of Premier level members are frequent participants in leading programs and initiatives.

## FOUNDATION

**\$15,000**

Built for influential business leaders who want to actively shape growth and success. Members of this tier are celebrated not only for their leadership within their industries, but also for their commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and long-term prosperity throughout the community.

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Well-established companies with a strong presence in the community seek meaningful participation in programs and initiatives that drive impact, while also receiving full recognition and prominent exposure for their ongoing commitment to supporting and advancing the organization's mission.

## CATALYST

**\$3,000**

Small to midsize corporations headquartered in the community or large organizations with a local presence. Corporate members value collaboration opportunities for their employees and brand visibility through sponsorship.

## STAKEHOLDER

**\$5,000**

Established organizations looking for business development opportunities, industry or regulatory support, and community engagement and networking.

## CONTACT STAFF FOR DETAILS

# 2026 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

	Non-Profit \$365	Community \$500	Builder \$1,000	Catalyst \$3,000	Stakeholder \$5,000	Premier \$10,000	Foundation \$15,000	President's Circle
Rep on Account	1	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	∞
Location	1	1	1	2	3	4	∞	∞
Job Posting & Calendar Access	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Invite to All RC & BAH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Physical and Digital Decal	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Access to Book RC		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Access to Join Connectors and YP		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Special learning Seminar Rate		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Access to Builder's Plan Website		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Discounted RC			•	•	•	•	•	•
Host BAH			•	•	•	•	•	•
Notary Services				•	•	•	•	•
Website Advertising				•	•	•	•	•
Business Social Media Spotlight					•	•	•	•
BAH Priority					•	•	•	•
RC Included					•	•	•	•

All Partners are listed in the physical/ digital directory, receive a physical/ digital decal, emails, and are invited to all partner events.

Non-Profit \$365    Community \$500    Builder \$1,000    Catalyst \$3,000    Stakeholder \$5,000    Premier \$10,000    Foundation \$15,000    President's Circle

Golf Team Priority						•	•	•
Annual Meeting Priority						•	•	•
Annual Meeting Speaker Reception Invite						•	•	•
State Fair VIP Reception Invite						•	•	•
Enhanced Online Directory Listing						•	•	•
Young Professionals Membership							3	5
YP New Member BBQ Sponsor							•	•
WSC Intern Lunch Sponsor							•	•
Annual Meeting Sponsor and Table							•	•
Golf Outing Sponsor and Team							•	•
FREE BAH								•
FREE E- Blast								•
1 Economic Analysis								•
Career Scholars Participation								•
Talent Recruitment								•
Enhanced Marketing*								•

Enhanced Marketing is defined as: reserved ad location monthly [1 photo, 300 words], spotlight in weekly newsletters, large size custom online banner, social media take over day, logo on Build Grand Island signage.

# 2026 MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for digital marketing solutions?

We offer a wide variety of opportunities.

	VALUE	# AVAILABLE
<p>Targeted Email Blast to Memberships [Your own custom e-mail; sent on Tuesdays/ Thursdays]</p>	\$150	100
<p>Business Spotlight [Your business featured in a Wednesday social post]</p>	\$50	50
<p>Referrals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When we receive questions about businesses in the area or people who looking for a service, we refer our partners first!</li> </ul>	Included	
<p>Online and Physical Directory Listing [ad spots available]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every partner will be included in the business directory on the website and our yearly print copy.</li> </ul>	Included	
<p>Business Specials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post your products, services or events on the website.</li> <li>Ability to add photos, contact information and logo to listing.</li> <li>The special will also appear in Grand Island This Week newsletter.</li> </ul>	Included	4 / Month / Business
<p>Job Postings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote job openings on the website.</li> <li>Ability to add a job description, logo and contact information.</li> <li>The posting will also appear in the weekly newsletter.</li> </ul>	Included	
<p>Event Postings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add events to appear on the calendar.</li> <li>Events can include information, links and images.</li> <li>The event will also appear in the newsletter.</li> </ul>	Included	

# À LA CARTE MENU

Additional sponsorship opportunities.

## Annual Meeting June 11, 2026

### Event Sponsor - \$2,750

- Table of 8 in prime location
- Logo on all promotional materials and event signage
- Mentioned during event
- Featured on social media and website

### Reception / Dessert / Stage / Media Sponsor - \$1,750

- 4 tickets to event
- Logo on selected promotional materials
- Mentioned during event
- Featured on social media and website



## Golf Outing July 31, 2026

### Snack Shack Sack Sponsor - \$1,750

- One team of 4 [\$600 value] including meals, 18 holes, and 2 carts
- Option to have a representative at event
- Recognition verbally before and after event
- Social media and newsletter shout out
- Company logo placed on all marketing materials
- Logo on all snack bags

### Event Sponsor - \$1,500

- One team of 4 [\$600 value] including meals, 18 holes, and 2 carts
- An option to have a booth at the event
- Recognition verbally before and after event
- Social media and newsletter shout out
- Company logo placed on all marketing materials
- Logo on large sign at entrance of golf clubhouse

### Cart Sponsor - \$1,400

- One team of 4 [\$600 value] including meals, 18 holes, and 2 carts
- Logo on 70+ golf cart tags
- Recognition verbally before and after event
- Company logo placed on all marketing material

### Food Sponsor - Awards - \$1,250

- One team of 4 [\$600 value] including meals, 18 holes, and 2 carts
- Option to have a representative at event
- Recognition verbally before and after event
- Social media and newsletter shout out
- Company logo placed on all marketing materials

### Beverage Sponsor - \$600

- Logo on beverage ticket distributed to all golfers
- Recognition verbally before and after event
- Company logo placed on all marketing materials
- Early bird registration

### Hole Sponsor - \$500 PLUS \$50 gift of choice

- An option to have a booth and representative at the hole
- Recognition verbally during event announcements
- Company logo or name placed on all marketing materials
- Logo on sign at sponsored hole
- Early bird registration

# À LA CARTE MENU

Additional sponsorship opportunities.

## Harvest of Harmony October 3, 2026

### Presenting Sponsor: Contact for Pricing

- All promotional content
- The 3rd Street banner
- The broadcast frame
- Broadcast commercials
- The field competition scoreboard at Memorial Stadium

### Parade Trophy Sponsor - \$1,500:

- All promotional content
- Verbal recognition at award ceremony
- Logo placed on awards
- Logo placed in physical/ digital programs

### Program Sponsor - \$500:

- All promotional content for field comp.
- Verbal recognition at field comp.
- Logo placed in physical/ digital programs

### Field Competition Sponsor - \$1,500:

- Over 20 bands compete in field marching at Grand Island Senior High's Memorial Field. This event draws over 2,500 attendees.
- All promotional content
- Name/ logo in program
- Verbal recognition at event
- Logo on field competition scoreboard at Memorial Stadium

### Field Competition Trophy Sponsor - \$1,500:

- All promotional content
- Verbal recognition at award ceremony
- Logo placed on awards
- Logo placed in physical/ digital programs

### Community Sponsor - \$500:

- Select promotional content
- Verbal recognition at award ceremony
- Name listed in physical/ digital program

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## Big Idea Grand Island November 3, 2026

### Prize Sponsorships:

**\$2,500 - 1st Place | \$1,250 - 2nd Place | \$500 - 3rd Place**

- Logo + website link on website
- Logo on collateral
- Social media and event recognition
- Logo on all event materials

### Stage and Event Sponsor - \$500:

- Logo + website link on website
- Social media and event recognition
- Logo placed on stage

### Venue Sponsor - \$1,000:

- Logo + website link on website
- Social media and event recognition
- Logo placed around venue

### Popcorn Bar Sponsor - \$250:

- Logo + website link on website
- Social media and event recognition
- Logo placed at popcorn bar

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## Wayne State College - Thrive in GI Day

### Lunch Sponsor - \$500

- Logo on all promotional materials and event signage
- Mentioned during event
- Featured on social media and website

### Dinner Sponsor - 3 Spots Available [\$500/each]

- Logo on all promotional materials and event signage
- Mentioned during event
- Featured on social media and website

# 2026 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Events will be added throughout the year as our calendar grows.

For our most up to date calendar, check out our website.

## JANUARY

- 9 - Feel Fit RC
- 15 - Summit Real Estate / Altitude Insurance / Churchill Mortgage BAH
- 21 - Chamber Connectors Decal Blitz
- 22 - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual YP State of the City

## FEBRUARY

February BAH - Date/ Location TBD

## MARCH

- 4 - CCC - Welding Tech Building RC
- 5 - Bruning Bank

## APRIL

April BAH - Date/ Location TBD

## MAY

May BAH - Date/ Location TBD  
3-6 - Small Business Week

## JUNE

June BAH - Date/ Location TBD  
11 - GIAEDC & Chamber Annual Meeting  
26 - Hear Grand Island

## JULY

July BAH - Date/ Location TBD  
10 - Hear Grand Island  
17 - Hear Grand Island  
24 - Hear Grand Island  
31 - GIAEDC & Chamber Golf Outing  
31 - Hear Grand Island

## AUGUST

7 - Hear Grand Island  
13 - Amur BAH

## SEPTEMBER

September BAH - Date/ Location TBD

## OCTOBER

3 - 84<sup>th</sup> Harvest of Harmony  
8 - Greater Grand Island Community Foundation BAH

## NOVEMBER

FNBO BAH - Date TBD  
2 - Big Idea Grand Island

## DECEMBER

December BAH - Date/ Location TBD  
Legislative Kickoff - Date TBD



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE GRAND ISLAND COMMUNITY!



Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation  
& Chamber of Commerce  
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