

chamber connection

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year

2024

ADVANCING BUSINESS.
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY.

CHAMBER
CALENDAR

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CURRENT &
UPCOMING EVENTS

PGS. 5-7

TIPS, TOOLS
& NEWS

PG. 8

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Belleville Public School District #118

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Egyptian Workspace Partners

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Logan & Logan LLC Management & Accounting Services

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Bi-Sate Development

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wpfeil@bellevillechamber.org

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bms@bellevillechamber.org

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Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce
216 East A Street, Belleville, IL 62220
Phone: (618) 233-2015 Fax: (618) 233-2077
www.bellevillechamber.org

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Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
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*Ads must be received by the
15th of each month,
electronically in JPEG or PDF
form.*

Please call 618-233-2015 or email
marketing@bellevillechamber.org
to reserve your ad space.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome *to the following businesses and organizations who have joined the Chamber in November.*

Professional Kitchen Solutions, Inc.

22 South 20th Street | Belleville, IL
(618)233-4006

WellNow Urgent Care

2524 North Illinois Street | Belleville, IL
(618)212-3144

Thank you *to the following members for renewing their membership with the Chamber in November.*

Barcom Security
Beast Craft BBQ
Cambridge House of Swansea
Casa Maria
Ehret, Inc.
Fletchers Kitchen and Tap
Garden Place Senior Living
Home Instead Senior Care
Lexi's Bar Food Fun
Local Lucy's
MOSAIC
Penny Pinch Tax LLC
Serra Honda O'Fallon
St. Clair County Economic Development
St. Clair County Health Department

For a complete list of our members, visit www.BellevilleChamber.org. For Membership Information, contact Peggy at 618-233-2015 or PSchifferdecker@bellevillechamber.org

Did you know the Chamber has a members-only event calendar?

Submit your event online at www.BellevilleChamber.org and click "Calendar" to see the calendar and submit your event!
All events will be featured in our Weekly Friday E-blast.

CHAMBER EVENTS

January 2024

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- Jan 9 Coffee Cup Connections - at Memorial Hospital
- Jan 11 Healthcare & CSA Committee Meeting
- Jan 17 Leadership Belleville Committee Meeting



THE GREATER
Belleville
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

*Coffee Cup
Connections*

 **MEMORIAL**
HOSPITAL

4500 Memorial Drive | Belleville, IL
Main Campus Boardroom

RSVP Today!
Tuesday | January 9 | 8:30am



RSVP FOR EVENTS ONLINE AT
BellevilleChamber.org

*Just click on the event you wish to attend and
log-in. Need help? Email your RSVP to
marketing@bellevillechamber.org
or call 618-233-2015.*



Advancing **Business.**
Supporting **Community.**

Listen to our Podcast

Listen as we help highlight, promote
and enlighten people, businesses,
and community events in the Greater
Belleville area. Find out more at

[*www.bellevillechamber.org*](https://www.bellevillechamber.org)



CHAMBER EVENTS



ANNUAL MOVIE NIGHT WITH SANTA AT SKYVIEW DRIVE-IN

Another Successful Movie Night with Santa is in the books! THANK YOU to everyone that attended. We had so much fun with all of you!

To our sponsors and volunteers that make this event possible, we appreciate every one of you.



WellNow Urgent Care
Catholic Holy Family Society
Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC
McCullough's Flooring
Grimm & Gorly Florist & Gifts
Pour322
Bungalow in Belleville
Bank of Belleville
Ambassador Travel & Cruises
Belleville Magazine
Bouse Properties LLC
Challenge Unlimited, Inc.
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois
Hospice of Southern Illinois
Metro East Pride

COFFEE CUP CONNECTIONS AT BUNGALOW

Another fabulous Coffee Cup Connections hosted by Grimm & Gorly Florist & Gifts at Bungalow in Belleville. Our members would agree that the food and Pour322 coffee is always excellent.

If you haven't seen the unique decor and gifts for sale at Grimm & Gorly, make sure you stop by! You can find them at 324 E. Main on Belleville Main Street.

Our January 9th Coffee Cup Connections will be hosted by Memorial Hospital in Belleville.



CHAMBER EVENTS

HOLIDAY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT THE EDGE

Thanks to everyone that came out for our final Business After Hours of 2023! We truly appreciate the The EDGE for being such wonderful hosts and for throwing a festive party that kicked off the holiday season!



PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON AT ECKERT'S

On December 12th, we had the privilege of meeting with past Presidents of the Chamber at the annual Past President's Luncheon! We are very grateful for their service and guidance as plan we for the future.

Thank you, Eckert's Country Store & Farms for hosting!

(Front Row - left to right) Bob Dintelmann, Fred Baltz, Ron Riegel

(Back Row - left to right) Amy Richter, Edmond Brown, Kevin Pesko, Ed Hoering, Jay Tebbe, Lary Eckert, Ryan Boike, Kevin Richter, Scott Givens, Doug Sitton, Leo Heffner, Mary Lamie & Paul Lowrey



CHAMBER EVENTS

2023 CHAMBER ANNUAL MEETING

The Chamber's Annual Meeting was the perfect way to wrap up 2023! A big congrats to new Chamber Board members, Rebecca Boyer of Kaskaskia Engineering Group and Mary Dahm-Schell of The EDGE.

The Chamber will be lead in 2024 by Ryan Boike, Superintendent of Belleville District #118, as our incoming Chairperson and we welcome Ericka Logan of Logan & Logan LLC Management & Accounting Services to our Executive Committee.

We appreciate Mayor Patty Gregory and State Rep. Jay Hoffman for attending and giving updates. Thank you to St. Paul United Church of Christ - Belleville, Illinois, for hosting us in your beautiful Heritage Hall!



(Front Row - left to right) Brett Baltz, Ericka Logan,
Ryan Boike, Mary Lamie, Ron Stephens
(Back Row - left to right) Rebecca Boyer, Lisa Adams,
Mary Dahm-Schell, Amy Richter, Stephen Sedlak,
Dan Lovekamp, Jeff Bair





Member Tips, Tools & News

INFORMATION SUBMITTED FROM
CHAMBER MEMBERS





1. City of Belleville Economic Development Strategic Plan nears completion.
2. Belleville District #201 announces expansion of the Center for Academic & Vocational Excellence (CAVE).
3. City of Belleville issues 91 Commercial Occupancy Permits (as of 12/12/23).
4. City of Belleville is awarded \$553,850 in grant funding:
 - a. \$424,850 in DCEO Tourism funds for the City Market.
 - b. 76,500 in Dept. of Energy funds for energy efficiency improvements for the City Market.
 - c. \$100,000 in MEPRD funds for improvements at Citizens Park.
 - d. \$29,000 in MEPRD funds for a Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan.
5. Shoehorn Brewing opens new microbrewery at 225 East Main St.
6. Freddy's Frozen Custard opens at Belleville Crossing.
7. LongStory Coffee opens at 732 South Illinois St.
8. Clara B's Kitchen Table relocates and expands inside LongStory Coffee at 732 S. Illinois St.
9. Knipp Roofing & Exteriors completes expansion on South 10th St.
10. Take 5 Car Wash begins construction at Belleville Crossing.
11. Bicentennial Park splash pad opens.
12. Chelar Tool & Die continues 15,000 square foot expansion at 1300 East 'A' St.
13. New cannabis dispensary/craft grow facility announced at Rt. 15 & South 74th St.
14. Tygracon Properties completes luxury apartments open at 300 East Main St.
15. LaCross Dental opens at 3601 North Belt West.
16. Southwestern Illinois Justice & Workforce Development Campus activities:
 - a. SWIC Police Academy relocates and expands to the SIJWD Campus.
 - b. U.S. Senator Alan J. Dixon Justice Center opens.
 - c. Matt's Café opens.
17. Trolley Circle independent senior living announced on South 74th St.
18. Villas of Holly Brook assisted living/memory care center expands on Frank Scott Parkway.
19. LongStory Coffee and Abe's Gourmet Popcorn are inducted into the Illinois Made Program.
20. Cardinal Buick/GMC is named the #1 Buick dealer in the U.S.
21. ASP2 STEAM Academy, Inc. opens at 424 Lebanon Ave.
22. Lochmueller Group relocates and expands to 200 East Main St.
23. Bellevue Park Fitness Court opens as the first phase of \$900,000 dollars in major improvements at Bellevue Park.

23. Bellevue Park Fitness Court opens as the first phase of \$900,000 dollars in major improvements at Bellevue Park.
24. Aldi begins construction on Carlyle Ave.
25. Lofts on the Square independent senior living center wins the Most Enhanced Award from Landmarks Association of St. Louis.
26. George Renner & Sons Funeral Home begins expansion on North High St.
27. The Harp Pub announced at 1110 West Main St.
28. Sawdust & Glitter relocates and expands to 16 South Illinois St.
29. 208 The Annex Air BnB opens at 208 East Washington St.
30. Local Lucy's relocates and expands to 122 East Main St.
31. Lexi's bar and grill opens at 126 East Main St.
32. Imo's Pizza completes renovations at 201 South Belt East.
33. Gruv Bistro & Wine Bar opens at 223 East Main St.
34. Velocity Metal Works relocation from O'Fallon to Belleville creating 25-30 skilled labor jobs. The location is 9480 Rt. 15.
35. Immuno Tek is under construction at 5700 North Belt West. When completed, it will provide 40 new medical jobs including doctors and technicians.
36. Millions of dollars spent on public infrastructure projects in the city in 2023.
37. In April of 2023, the City of Belleville was awarded an Economic Development award by the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois. This award celebrated resiliency through retention and expansion.
38. Economic Development Strategy plan for the City of Belleville completed in 2023.



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MEMBER NEWS

PETER MASNICA JOINS OATES ASSOCIATES

Oates Associates is pleased to announce that Peter Masnica has officially joined the team!

Peter is a graduate of the University of Missouri - St. Louis / Washington University Joint Engineering Program where he earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He brings 6 years of municipal engineering experience which makes a smooth transition into Oates Associates as municipal engineering is a primary focus at the firm. As a project manager, Peter will focus on civil/site design.

Oates Associates is currently hiring! Full-time engineering roles are open for building structural, civil and transportation: <https://oatesassociates.aaimtrack.com/jobs/>



OATES ASSOCIATES EMPLOYEE EARNS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER LICENSE

Oates Associates, a civil and structural engineering firm, is pleased to announce that Ben Miller has earned his Professional Engineer (PE) license. The PE license is a career milestone in the engineering industry, symbolizing achievement and assurance of quality.

Ben is an associate project engineer who focuses on civil/site design, transportation projects and assisting with ADA (Americans with Disabilities) related projects. He has been a part of the team since 2019.

About Oates Associates:

Oates Associates is a multi-disciplined design firm with offices in Collinsville and Belleville, Illinois and St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri. Oates provides engineering and surveying services for transportation and building projects. Specifically, this includes transportation and traffic engineering, ADA transition planning, stormwater management, site design, building and bridge structural design and inspections, surveying and drone operations. For more information, visit www.oatesassociates.com or call 618.345.2200.



MEMBER NEWS

IMPACT STRATEGIES BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW U-HAUL IN WENTZVILLE

Site work has commenced on the new U-Haul center in Wentzville, Missouri, at the intersection of Hwy 70 & David Hoekel Parkway. IMPACT Strategies is leading the construction of the new 124,056-square-foot self-storage facility being built on 7.47 acres. It will be IMPACT's third project with U-Haul, the industry leader in DIY moving since 1945.

The sitework preparation for the construction of the two new buildings was initiated earlier this month. The project consists of a three-story concrete cast in place tilt-up self-storage warehouse along with a one-story pre-engineered metal building that will house U-Box portable storage containers. The new Wentzville location will help bring additional moving and storage services to the West St. Louis region.

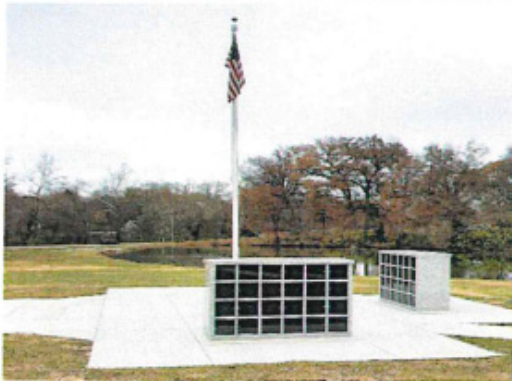
IMPACT has similar U-Haul projects in progress in Champaign, IL, and Springfield, IL. The three projects will total 290,306 square feet of new U-Haul facilities.

"We are honored to continue our relationship with U-Haul on this exciting new project," said Mark Hinrichs, President at IMPACT Strategies. "We're grateful for our repeat clients who look to us to be their Trusted Advisor throughout the design and construction process."



The U-Haul storage facilities in Wentzville are set for completion in early 2025.

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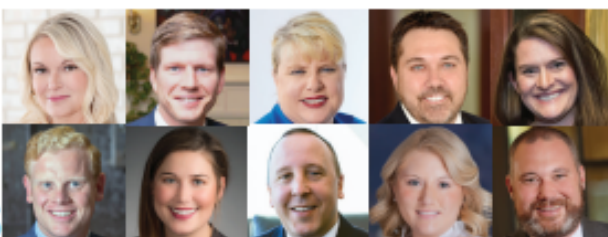
618-257-3330



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METRO EAST AREA

BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS



These **LEADING LAWYERS** have been recommended by their peers to be among the **TOP LAWYERS** in Illinois.

| | | | | |
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| Untress L. Quinn | Armstrong Teasdale LLP | Edwardsville | 314.259.4740 | Employment; Management; Labor; Mngmnt; Medical Mal Def; PI Def: General; Product Liability Def |
| D. Todd Mathews | Bailey & Glasser LLP | O'Fallon | 618.726.0091 | Class Action/Mass Tort Plaintiff; Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury Plaintiff: Product Liability |
| Edward J. Blake Jr. | Blake Law Group PC | Belleville | 618.233.7900 | Closely/Private Held Business; Family; Tax: Business; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate |
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| Michael L. Wagner | Clayborne & Wagner LLP | Belleville | 618.239.0187 | Environmental; Gov't/Municipal/Lobbying/Admin; Public Finance; Real Estate: Commercial; School |
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| L. Kevin Vick | Greensfelder Hemker & Gale PC | O'Fallon | 618.239.3613 | Close/Private Held; Franchise/Dealership; Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; RE: Commercial; RE: Finance |
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| | | | | |
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| Mark B. Weinheimer | Weinheimer Law Firm PC | Glen Carbon | 618.692.5111 | Agriculture; Banking/Financial Institutions; Close/Private Held; RE: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate |
| William L. Berry | William Berry & Associates LLC | Collinsville | 618.344.0034 | Insurance/Coverage/Reins; Personal Injury Def: General; Workers' Compensation; Work Comp Def |

These EMERGING LAWYERS have been identified by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.

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MEMBER NEWS

TERRASOURCE GLOBAL CELEBRATED 100 YEARS OF SUCCESS IN 2023!

The momentous occasion was a celebration of Gundlach Crusher brand's centennial. The event was shared with past and present employees and their families, the Gundlach descendants, and residents of the Belleville area. A century of dedication, innovation, and success deserved a grand celebration, and we were happy so many participated.

All who attended got a little giftbag of memorabilia items and others won exclusive limited-edition merchandise as prizes. The prize items were one-of-a-kind that showcase our heritage and journey over the past 100 years. No one left empty-handed.



It was fun for the whole family with activities for the kids, food, and an interactive photo booth for visitor's to capture and save their own memories. Exclusive tours were given throughout the day to satisfy all those curious about what goes into making our legendary products. Insight into a century's worth of craftsmanship and innovation were shared. They also got to view the newly installed historical wall, truly bringing the history to life.

Being such a monumental moment, Mayor Patty Gregory was present to read a proclamation and a time capsule was buried with items of the day. Enclosed within the capsule are newspapers from that date, our 100 year tee-shirt, stickers, pictures from the party, our invitation, a flash drive of all photobooth photos as well as videos, and a few other hidden treats. Already buried by our main entrance, the plan is to open it in twenty-five years.

HISTORICAL STORY OF GUNDLACH CRUSHERS



T.J Gundlach Machine Company was founded when Theodore Jacob Gundlach purchased from his cousins the Gundlach Machinery Company on East Main Street in Belleville, Illinois in 1923. T.J. had been working with them since being discharged from the Army in 1917. Initially, T.J. Gundlach Machine Co. was founded as a repair shop servicing mining companies and foundries.

Business grew when T.J. added St. Louis Reaming Tool to their equipment. Then in 1929 he purchased the Sparta Factory. The plant was enlarged to handle the additional business of manufacturing punches and shears for cutting sheet iron.

The hand-operated punch and shear machine used in steel work made by the Gundlach company saw a great increase in foreign orders and could be found in Africa, Holland, New Zealand, Russia, China, South America, and Canada. As T.J. worked to expand into Turkey and Mexico in 1940, he purchased another firm launching company efforts into the coal industry. This is when the Gundlach company moved its shop from East Main street to 226 Centerville Avenue and J.M.J. Industries was founded later on October 1, 1946.

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MEMBER NEWS

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The firm Ted purchased manufactured and repaired mining equipment like hoisting cages. T.J. worked out of his machine shop often spending months on the road travelling to the deepest areas of mine country to work on engines. Along his travels he listened and learned from coal operators he met. During these interactions, he discovered the existing crushing equipment used was antiquated, slow, and mostly inefficient. It was suggested T.J. invent a machine that would produce regular sizes of small coal pieces.

T.J. had a limited education, but was an ingenious self-made engineer with a penchant for mechanics and a propensity for innovation. Drawing inspiration from his observations and knowledge he gleaned from the coal operators, T.J. burnt the midnight oil in his kitchen, penciling what was to become the first roll crusher that crushed in three dimensions. This initial design, known as the “pocket tooth,” resembled a waffle iron on a circular roll. In 1948 his design was brought to life in his shop and the crusher performed with such precision and effectiveness it astonishing coal operators everywhere.

This original design remains the backbone of Gundlach’s technology. The philosophy of its origin is constant as well - to build equipment that fits clients’ needs, has a long productive life, and keeps maintenance in mind. This maintenance friendly mindset was instilled from the earliest days. Whenever a new crusher design was discussed, many would hear T.J. say, “Since I’m the one who will be working on these crushers, make darn sure they’re easy to work on.”

This original Gundlach roll crusher was the first single-stage, two-roll crusher that broke 50mm coal down to 19mm cubes so it wouldn’t get jammed up in automatic feeders. T.J. loaded his crusher and an old Ford tractor to power it onto a truck and he visited mines all over to demonstrate directly to owners so they could see how well it worked for themselves.

Along his travels T.J. learned there was not much of a market for chunk coal as it came directly from the mines. What was truly needed was a crusher that could take 6-inch coal and crush it into .75-inches stoker size. This evolved into him creating a two-stage three-dimensional roll crusher. T.J. realized he could develop a two-stage, four-roll crusher taking the original stage and adding another. He combined the two into a singular machine in such a way only one motor was needed to power it, and he added gearboxes to make adjustments and maintain timing so that the coal could be intermeshed properly. Theodore J. Gundlach applied for a patent in Sept. 6, 1949 for a paired-rolled coal crushers with peripheral sizing pockets on each roll which was granted in Dec. of 1950. Other manufacturers competed, but the Gundlach Crusher remained in the forefront with innovative designs featuring the pocket tooth roll that reduced the percentage of fines by 50 percent over others. The competition couldn’t keep up.

T.J. Gundlach’s relentless pursuit of innovation, coupled with his commitment to maintenance-friendly designs, laid the foundation for the success and reputation of the Gundlach Crusher brand we know today. His pioneering crushers and other equipment revolutionized the coal industry, provided efficient solutions and positioned his company at the forefront of the market. His revolutionary designs is why Theodore Jacob Gundlach is known as “The Henry Ford of the Coal Crusher.”



MEMBER NEWS

COMMUNITY VOICES NEEDED FOR COUNTY WIDE HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN HSHS ST. ELIZABETH'S & OTHER HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, St. Clair County Health Department, East Side Health District and BJC HealthCare Memorial Hospital are once again collaborating on a project to assess the health needs of the residents of St. Clair County.

As part of the assessment process, these health care entities are asking all county residents to help identify health issues and concerns through a brief 10-minute online community survey. The feedback provided will help identify priority health issues for inclusion in the St. Clair County Health Improvement Plan. Residents can take the survey at <https://forms.office.com/r/ug6wg1aUjX> now through Dec. 1, 2023. Responses are anonymous.

Nonprofit hospitals, like St. Elizabeth's, must complete a community health needs assessment (CHNA) every three years as a requirement of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Hospitals provide their reports to the Internal Revenue Service. Local health departments are required by the Illinois Department of Public Health to complete community health assessments every five years through guidelines established by the Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN).

Following the survey and other information gathering, the collaborating organizations will determine which health priorities they should address over the next three years and how to implement those priorities. The completed CHNA report with identified health priorities will be available by the end of June 2024, and the final improvement plan will be made available in November 2024.

Eight other Illinois hospitals in Hospital Sisters Health System will also be conducting health needs assessments in the coming months. They are HSHS St. John's Hospital for Sangamon County, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital for Macon County, HSHS St. Francis Hospital for Montgomery and Macoupin counties, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital for Effingham and Jasper counties, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese for Clinton County, HSHS Holy Family Hospital for Bond County, and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland for Madison County.

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THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF JOB CARVING: A WIN-WIN APPROACH FOR EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

BY: *STEPHANIE SCHRAGE WITH CHALLENGE UNLIMITED*

In today's complex business landscape, recruitment, engagement, and retention of employees stand out as paramount concerns for employers, irrespective of their size or industry. An innovative solution has emerged on the horizon, challenging conventional norms, and revolutionizing the way business's view work and address staffing needs. This groundbreaking approach, known as "job carving," is not only changing lives for individuals living with disabilities but also enhancing the competitiveness and compassion of the businesses that embrace it.

Job carving transcends the boundaries of traditional workplace accommodations. It entails the fundamental restructuring of job roles to align with an individual's unique abilities, creating a symbiotic relationship that benefits both the employee and the employer. For individuals living with disabilities, job carving represents a transformative opportunity. It offers them the chance to pursue careers that genuinely align with their capabilities and interests, fostering independence and self-confidence as they excel in roles tailored to their strengths.

Challenge Unlimited, a pioneer in supporting individuals living with disabilities in securing meaningful employment for over five decades, has been at the forefront of this transformative movement. Through its Employment Services division, Challenge Unlimited collaborates closely with employers to assess their business needs and provide tailored productivity solutions. A dedicated team of Job Developers gains valuable insights into the intricacies of a business by observing operations and engaging in dialogues with owners and managers, comprehensively understanding employee duties and the requisite skills for each role. Subsequently, these Job Developers can recommend modifications to staffing duties, addressing issues contributing to high turnover, and matching them with job seekers with disabilities.

The accommodations offered through job carving empower job seekers with disabilities by identifying the work tasks and job duties that align with their abilities and determining the most suitable work environment for them. This process is informed by careful observation, interviews, work assessments at the business, and volunteer activities.

A compelling application of the transformative power of job carving can be found in the realm of Nutrition Operations. Here, an employer redefined a part-time position to include duties such as rolling silverware and napkins, perfectly tailored to the skill level of a job seeker with a disability. Another notable illustration of job carving within the realm of business development involves the health care industry's strategic initiative to address the challenge of staffing, particularly in the demanding and intricate domain of environmental services. In this context, hospitals identify a cluster of multifaceted tasks that were arduous for staff and cumbersome to execute. The requisite workforce for these tasks encompassed a substantial cohort, ranging from 15 to 20 individuals. To optimize operational efficiency and harness a diverse talent pool, the hospital chose to outsource these positions through subcontracting arrangements. Significantly, a substantial proportion of these subcontracted roles were thoughtfully allocated to individuals

with disabilities. This innovative approach not only contributed to the efficient execution of tasks but also exemplified the hospital's commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity within its workforce. Strategic job carving not only created new positions but also reallocated duties, leading to heightened productivity and improved quality in the departments. These examples show that the advantages of job carving extend beyond individuals with disabilities. Employers that harness the full potential of their employees enjoy increased productivity, enhanced employee retention rates, and access to a broader talent pool.

It is imperative that employers consider the potential benefits of incorporating job carving into their organizations. By doing so, businesses can not only champion inclusivity but also unlock the untapped potential within our workforce. For individuals living with disabilities, it is essential to recognize that there are businesses in our community that value their unique talents and are committed to creating an environment where everyone can thrive.

In conclusion, job carving represents a transformative paradigm shift in how we approach employment. It is a powerful tool that empowers individuals with disabilities while simultaneously enhancing productivity, compassion of businesses and the triple bottom line. The time has come for all employers to explore the vast opportunities that job carving presents, hereby shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future for our workforce and society at large.

MEMBER NEWS

WARRIORS ON MISSION TO SCREEN TRAUMA COMES HOME AT SWIC, WITH ACCOMPANING WARRIOR HOPE WORKSHOP

Warriors On Mission will partner with Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) to screen the film Trauma Comes Home: The Battle for the Warrior Family, Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The film's director and creator, Bob Waldrep, will be onsite for a question-and-answer session. A free training in the Warrior Hope curriculum will also be offered on Friday, February 9, 2024 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The film and training will be held in the SWIC Theatre on the Belleville Campus at 2500 Carlyle Ave, Belleville, IL 62221.

Trauma Comes Home: The Battle for the Warrior Family is the third documentary released by Crosswinds/Front Porch Media that is breaking new ground in the discussion about post-traumatic stress (PTSD) and the invisible wounds of deployment. This release differs from the company's first two films by focusing on the family and acknowledging the effects of trauma on the entire family unit. Designed to educate the public about PTSD, Moral Injury, and the other effects of military service, the films are distributed free of charge.

The two-day event is designed to equip people with the tools and training needed to empower veterans to overcome the hurts of the past, walk in wholeness, and encourage them to identify their next life mission. The goal isn't just to find healing from the past, but to forge ahead into the best possible future. The Warrior Hope training will be facilitated by Bob Waldrep, the founder and president of Crosswinds, and Andy Jenkins, co-creator of the Warrior Hope curriculum. The 12-lesson training gives participants all of the resources they need to lead their own group and implement strategy.

Participants can attend any or all parts of this is a two-day event. The events are free, but registration is required at warriorhope.online/SWIC.

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