

ROCHESTER CHAMBER *of Commerce* FOUNDATION

Building a competitive workforce

**The Rochester Chamber Foundation works to ensure that
you have access to a globally competitive workforce.**

Our Mission: To support and advance the charitable interests of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce through education and workforce development initiatives

How do we do this?

- By staying informed and connected to key issues that affect your access to a globally competitive workforce
- By developing strategic partnerships and initiatives with schools, businesses, community leaders and other supporters

Why should you care?

Our ability to prepare, attract and retain a globally competitive workforce is vital to your business and our community prosperity.

Key Facts:

- More than two-thirds of new jobs created between now and 2018 and high-growth jobs in demand will require some education beyond high school. (*Help Wanted: Georgetown University Center for Education and the Workforce*)
- Eliminating the need for remedial education among new college students would save MN \$89 million annually. (*Alliance for Excellent Education, 2010*)
- More than 36,000 new jobs are expected to be created in STEM fields between 2006 and 2016. Additionally, STEM occupations will require more than 50,000 new workforce entrants to replace people who will retire or otherwise leave their occupation in the next 10 years. (*DEED Labor Market – MN*)

How can you be involved?

- VOLUNTEER or participate in an education or workforce development program
- ADVOCATE for our initiatives at your workplace and in the community
- INVEST an individual gift or sponsorship donation* from your business

Please read on for more information about our programs and opportunities for you to invest in a positive future for your business and our community.

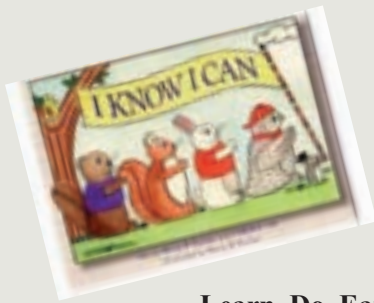
**The Chamber of Commerce Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization supported by tax-deductible contributions, which allow us to offer our programming to the greater Rochester community at little to no cost.*



Diversity in Business

An initiative of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce





Preparing for the future: Workforce 2020

Key initiatives of **Workforce 2020** such as **Learn.Do.Earn.**, **STEM** (Science Technology Engineering Math) and **Educators In the Workplace** will ensure we have more college and career-ready graduates tomorrow than we do today.

Learn. Do. Earn. In 2010-11, over 3,000 high school students, 2,200 middle school students and 1,500 Rochester area third-graders learned the importance of taking rigorous courses, working hard and staying in school thanks to the efforts of teachers, parents and community and business members.



On the road and in the classroom

During *Learn.Do.Earn. Elementary Week* in May, volunteer readers visited Rochester classrooms to read the book, *I Know I Can*, with third-graders.

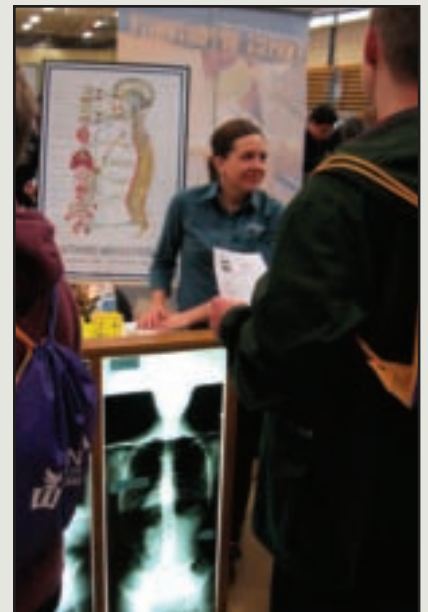
“As a parent, I think the book “I Know I Can” is a wonderful stepping stone/tool for a child to focus on goals for the future! Thank you for providing this book to over 1500 children in the Rochester area (including Kasson-Mantorville schools)!” - Third-grade parent, Kasson-Mantorville



Chamber members engaged older students by visiting their classrooms to share their career and industry experience, playing the part of employer in mock job interviews, and by helping reinforce the lessons learned in the classroom programs - work hard now, earn more later.

“We have been using the program this year and it speaks to competition in the job market and pushes students to enroll in tougher math and science classes. They are the students that will be applying for jobs. That really hit home to a lot of students.” – Middle School Teacher, Rochester Public Schools

STEM. At our annual STEM SUMMIT, we encouraged 1,500 middle and high school students to pursue science, technology, engineering and math careers by connecting them to businesses and higher educational institutions which offer STEM courses. We also helped further develop a local Lego Robotics League for students age 5-14.



Educators in the Workplace Institute. EIWI is designed to help educators learn about the workforce needs of area businesses so that they can help prepare and educate their students. We connected over 70 area educators with local Chamber businesses in a three-day institute focused on developing the college and scareer-ready graduate.

“Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to attend Educators in the Workplace Institute and the worksite tour of the Mayo Center for Innovation. This will open new doors not just for me as a teacher, but for my students so they will be better prepared to be our future leaders and innovators!” – EIWI Attendee, 2011



Workforce 2020. Workforce 2020 is a community coalition of leaders who are committed to promoting a competitive educational and workforce development system for all.

Workforce 2020 convenes partners quarterly around shared issues, goals, measurements and results. Strengthening our core education - especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math - helps ensure a healthy future talent pool of employees.

Currently, a core group of leaders strive to frame **the Rochester Promise** to offer direction, motivation and a supportive path with incentives to help develop college and career-ready graduates. Community engagement from all key stakeholder groups is integral in further development and utilization of the framework.

“I am pleased to remain actively involved in the Rochester Chamber Foundation’s initiative Workforce 2020. It is an issue which will have a lasting impact on our community. In keeping with the Chamber’s mission and historic precedence, the Chamber’s leadership fosters an inclusive table that balances broad based discussion of the issues with proposed solutions.” - Karel Weigel

Leadership Greater Rochester. To meet the need for a strong succession of leaders, local participants have challenged themselves in the community’s premier leadership program for over 30 years. In 2011, 37 new graduates enhanced their leadership skills through networking and educational sessions, by developing a greater understanding of the community, and by initiating positive change in Rochester through an original community impact project - in 2011, raising awareness of youth homelessness.



“I believe strongly in the value the Leadership Greater Rochester program provides. Not only is it a great way to network with other business leaders and a great learning opportunity, but it also is a way to give back to the community through the team projects. We try to have someone from our organization involved with LGR every year!” – Jeff Jensen, Express Employment Professionals (LGR Class of 2003)

When Work Works. This national initiative focuses on recognizing and developing workplaces that effectively attract, retain and develop their employees. In 2011, the U.S. Chamber, Families and Works Institute and the TWIGA and Sloan Foundations recognized eleven area businesses with the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Effectiveness in Workplace Flexibility. Over the last three years, we’ve recognized over 30 local businesses with this award, and engaged over 50 businesses in the movement. By providing you these tools and resources, we can help you assess and improve your workplace to better meet the needs of your employees.



Business Learning Network . In partnership with our local higher education providers, the BLN connects members to continuing education opportunities through our online BLN calendar and Speaker’s Bureau.

“Think Mutual Bank shares and supports the vision of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce Foundation on important initiatives such as Learn.Do.Earn, STEM and Workforce 2020. These initiatives support and encourage the innovative and technical thinking required for a competitive workforce and will help the Rochester area remain vibrant and successful in the future. We recognize that we share in the responsibility of creating educational excellence, economic stability and a healthy environment for our community.”- Carol Thouin, Think Mutual Bank

Diversity in Business. To build a more inclusive community, the Chamber created this initiative to encourage business growth by local entrepreneurs, specifically women and minorities. In 2011, we broadened our reach to all entrepreneurs with the launch of the Evolve series – “thriving and surviving in today’s economy.” The resulting local supplier diversity program – **Marketforce** – connects local suppliers and buyers and increases their competitive edge. Special interest diversity roundtables – such as the women entrepreneurial roundtable – also meet monthly.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. As a signature event of the foundation, this annual breakfast engages over 250 community leaders each January. A highlight is the keynote address delivered by a local diversity champion who exemplifies the ideals and delivers a message inspired by the life, work and wisdom of Martin Luther King, Jr. The goal is to encourage community leaders to take an active role in cultivating an inclusive workplace and community.



Opportunities to Support the Foundation

Volunteer opportunities:

- Reader for Learn.Do.Earn. Elementary Week - Read and discuss *I Know I Can* in 3rd grade classrooms.
- Learn.Do.Earn. - Visit classrooms to share your career and industry experience.
- STEM Road Show Presenter - Share your STEM career experience in a classroom, telling students about your career, what path you took to get there, and what opportunities are available in STEM fields.
- The STEM Summit - Showcase your business or volunteer at the Summit. Each November 1800+ students come together to participate in interactive exhibits by businesses highlighting STEM careers and higher education courses of study.
- Lego Robotics League - Coach a team, working with students in out-of-school organizations. No experience necessary –robotics software and instructions are provided.
- The Hiring Game - Visit a classroom to engage students in a simulation of the real-world hiring process.
- WF 2020 Advocate - Attend quarterly WF2020 meetings and share the messages throughout your network.

Investment/individual giving opportunities:

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Examples of the impact of your gift:

- \$50 Provide ten *I Know I Can* books for Rochester area 3rd graders
- \$100 Sponsor one teacher for Educators in the Workplace Institute
- \$500 Sponsor STEM Summit Keynote Speaker
- \$1000 Sponsor a Lego Robotics team of students, ages 5-14
- \$1500 Sponsor one Leadership Greater Rochester program participant
- \$500 - \$20,000 Ask about business sponsorship opportunities at all levels



Help our community grow, develop and prosper:

✓ Volunteer ✓ Advocate ✓ Invest