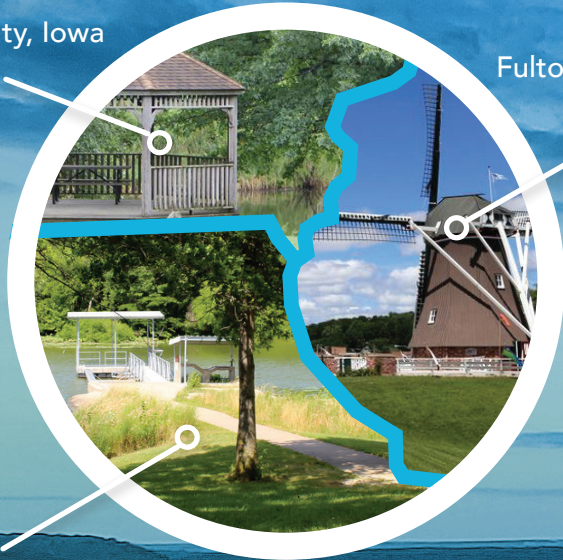


Jefferson County, Iowa

Fulton County, Illinois



Scotland County, Missouri

Hannibal, Missouri



# 2025 Agenda and Sessions

## Thursday September 25th

8:00 AM	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>	HLGU Lobby
8:30 AM	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> Sean Freeman, Director, Tri-State Development Welcome from Mayor Darrell McCoy, City of Hannibal	Main Stage
8:50 AM	<b>The Sit Down: Manufacturing Momentum in the Tri-State Region</b> Moderator: Anastasia Tiedemann Guests: Bob Havermale, NEMO Manufacturing Toby O'Cheltree, Knapheide Bob Huffman, Huffman Welding and Machine, Inc.	Main Stage
9:30 AM	<b>Morning Breakout Session</b> <b>Shaping the Future of Work: Aligning Skills with Economic Opportunity</b> Shari Schenewerk, Missouri Dept. of Economic Dev.	Room 108
	<b>How to Effectively Engage Your Federally Elected Official</b> Moderator: Rachel Lindeen Invitations have been extended to the offices of each state's US Senators and US Representatives to join the conversation	Room 125
	<b>Building our Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: Experience 1 Million Cups</b> Facilitator: JR Bareis Entrepreneurs: Ryan Sparks, SwingSync Labs Nikki Barr, Langhorn Meats	Main Stage
10:15 AM	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:30 AM	<b>Doing More With More: AI's Power for Rural and Business Community</b> Andy Skattebo, BrickStreet Digital	Main Stage
11:15 AM	<b>Lightning Talks</b> <b>Intro to the Tri-State Data Dashboard</b> Sue Goulder, Tri-State Development <b>From Dirt to Development: Prepping Rural Sites for Industrial Growth</b> Maria Kuhns, Hannibal Regional Economic Dev. Council <b>Making an Effective Media Statement</b> Chad Douglas, WGEM Jim Roberts, WGEM	Main Stage
11:45 AM	<b>Sponsor Acknowledgements</b>	

12:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>	HLGU Lobby
1:00 PM	<b>Panel: Transportation in the Tri-State: Roads, Rivers, Rail</b> Moderator: Sean Freeman, Tri-State Development Panelists: Kevin James, MoDOT Chris Kukla, Iowa DOT Greg Heckel, Illinois DOT Micheal Inman, City of Macomb Rick Granados, Cornbelt Ports	Main Stage
1:45 PM	<b>Afternoon Breakout Session</b> <b>The Future Works Here: Partnering on Workforce Development</b> Presenters: Teli Van Rycke, Greater Burlington Partnership Becky Newton, Lee County Economic Development Group	Room 108
	<b>Anatomy of a Successful Community-Focused Marketing Campaign</b> Maria Kuhns, Hannibal Regional Economic Dev. Council	Room 125
	<b>Attracting Manufacturing Talent to Rural Communities</b> Presenters: Kayla Wentz, John Wood Community College Brandi Glover, Moberly Area Community College Jeff Niekamp, Moberly Area Community College	Main Stage
2:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:45 PM	<b>Lightning Talks</b> <b>From Buy-In to Boom: How Industry Can Fuel Regional Growth</b> JR Bareis, Tigerhawk Technologies <b>A Community-focused Approach to Building a Pipeline of Child Care Providers</b> Catherine Meckes, Community Foundation <b>Investing in Talent, Inspiring Return</b> Laura Bradshaw, Macon County Economic Development	Main Stage
3:00 PM	<b>Tri-State Development Action Committee Engagement</b> Sean Freeman, Tri-State Development	Main Stage
3:15 PM	<b>Wrap Up and Adjourn</b> Sean Freeman, Tri-State Development	Main Stage

## Regional Innovation

### The Sit-Down: Manufacturing Momentum In The Tri-State Region

Join us as we pull up a chair for a candid conversation on the current state of manufacturing in our region. In this session, we'll explore the evolving skill sets today's manufacturers need, the growing demand for innovative problem-solvers, and the opportunities that exist for our region to lead. From workforce readiness to competitive advantage, this sit-down goes beyond the surface to spark ideas and action for what's next in regional manufacturing.



**Anastasia Tiedemann**  
Kirksville Regional  
Economic Development Inc.  
(Moderator)



**Robert Havermale**  
NEMO Manufacturing  
Panelist



**Toby O'Cheltree**  
Knapheide Manufacturing  
Panelist



**Bob Huffman**  
Huffman Welding  
Panelist

## Morning Breakout Sessions

### Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce: **Aligning Skills with Economic Opportunity**

As technology, industry, and demographics shift, so do the skills required for tomorrow's jobs. This session explores what workforce opportunities are emerging and how we can work toward aligning our schools, training programs, and community efforts to meet those ever-changing needs. Join the conversation on building a talent pipeline that's ready for what's next.



**Shari Schenewerk**  
State of Missouri Department of  
Economic Development

### Panel: **How To Engage Your Federal Elected Official**

From infrastructure to economic development, federal policy decisions have a direct impact on our communities. But influencing those decisions requires more than good intentions, it takes informed, strategic engagement by community members. In this informative breakout session, seasoned advocates and district staff from our federal elected official offices, will share practical advice on how to build relationships with your congressional delegation, communicate local priorities effectively, and navigate the policymaking process. Whether you're new to advocacy or looking to deepen your impact, this session will equip you with the tools to engage confidently and constructively with your federal elected officials.

**Invitations have been extended to the offices of each state's U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to take part in this discussion.**



**Rachel Lindeen**  
Mount Pleasant  
Area Chamber Alliance  
(Moderator)



## Breakout Sessions

### Building our Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: **Experience 1 Million Cups**

Get a first-hand look at how 1 Million Cups energizes local entrepreneurship through connection and community. This interactive session features two dynamic 1 Million Cup entrepreneur presentations, followed by time for community response, giving you the full experience of a typical weekly meeting.



**JR Bareis**  
Tigerhawk Technologies  
(Facilitator)

#### ENTREPRENEURS



**Nikki Barr**  
Langhorne Meats



**Ryan Sparks**  
SwingSync Labs

## Regional Innovation

### Doing More With More: **AI's Power for Rural Business and Community**

AI is moving fast - are you taking full advantage of it? Join speaker Andrew Skattebo for a critical update on AI advancements in 2025, where it's heading and what that means for your organization and community. Hear real examples of small business, nonprofit, and governmental organizations already using AI to innovate, stretch budgets, and accomplish more in their communities.



**Andy Skattebo**  
BrickStreet Digital

## Morning Lightning Talks

### Intro to the Tri-State Development Data Dashboard

Get ready to see your community, county, and region in a whole new way. Experience a rapid-fire intro to the Tri-State Development Community Data Dashboard, a powerful tool designed to turn community insight into action.



**Sue Goulder**  
Assistant Director  
at Tri-State Development

### From Dirt to Development: **Prepping Rural Sites for Industrial Growth**

From cornfield to contender, gain insight into the critical steps and surprising lessons in transforming raw land into a shovel-ready industrial site ready to compete for big opportunities.



**Maria Kuhns**  
Hannibal Regional Economic  
Development Council

### Making an Effective Media Statement

Learn from the pros how to attract media attention for your economic development activities and how to craft a clear, confident media statement that makes an impact.



**Chad Douglas**  
WGEM News Director



**Jim Roberts**  
WGEM Digital News Director

## Afternoon Panel

### Panel: Transportation in the Tri-State: Roads, Rivers, and Rail Panel

Transportation infrastructure shapes the future of our region, but understanding how key projects are prioritized can sometimes feel like navigating a maze.

In this session, we'll explore the full lifecycle of transportation projects, where they start, how they progress, and what it takes to bring them to completion. We will look at our region's identified transportation projects, see where each stands in the process, and learn how these initiatives align with agency plans.

Whether you're a seasoned advocate looking for updates on priority projects or new to the process and eager to understand how infrastructure decisions are made, this session offers valuable insights and opportunities to get involved.



**Sean Freeman**  
Tri-State Development  
(Moderator)



**Kevin James**  
Missouri DOT



**Chris Kukla**  
Iowa DOT



**Greg Heckel**  
Illinois DOT



**Micheal Inman**  
City of Macomb



**Rick Granados**  
Cornbelt Ports



**Snake Alley**  
Burlington, IA

## Afternoon Breakout Sessions

### The Future Works Here: Partnering on Workforce Development

Teli VanRyche, Regional Director of Workforce Innovation, and Becky Newton, Workforce and Community Specialist, share early wins from a new workforce partnership between the Greater Burlington Partnership and Lee County Economic Development Group. This collaborative approach leverages shared resources and cross-border strategies to meet regional talent needs and strengthen the tri-state workforce pipeline.



**Telisha Van Rycke**  
Greater Burlington Partnership



**Becky Newton**  
Lee County Economic  
Development Group



## Afternoon Breakout Sessions

### Anatomy of a Successful Community-Focused Marketing Campaign

Discover how Hannibal Regional Economic Development Council leveraged a strategic digital marketing campaign to position the region as a vibrant and desirable place to live. This session breaks down the strategy, messaging, and tools behind a community-focused campaign. Learn what is working and how similar efforts could benefit your community.



**Maria Kuhns**

Hannibal Regional Economic  
Development Council

### Attracting Manufacturing Talent to Rural Communities

Manufacturers in rural areas face persistent challenges in attracting and retaining skilled workers, making innovative workforce solutions more important than ever. This session brings together insights from the Great River FAME program and Moberly Area Community College's Manufacturing Apprenticeship program to highlight successful, scalable strategies for building a strong talent pipeline. Learn how your community can participate in and replicate these successful efforts.



**Kayla Wentz**

John Wood  
Community College



**Brandi Glover**

Moberly Area Community College



**Jeff Niekamp**

Moberly Area Community College

## Afternoon Lightning Talks

### From Buy-In to Boom: How Industry Support Can Fuel Regional Growth

Discover why industry engagement is the engine behind regional progress. This lightning talk highlights how business leaders can, and should, partner with Tri-State Development to shape our region's future.



**JR Bareis**

Tigerhawk Technologies

### A Community-focused Approach to Building a Pipeline of Child Care Providers

Learn how Adams County is tackling the issue of childcare with a multi-organizational committee coming together to work with the community college in order to support those interested in careers in childcare.



**Catherine Bocke Meckes**

Community Foundation

### Investing in Talent, Inspiring Return

Learn how a community investment pays off with a two-phase scholarship program focused on one mission: to help students pursue their education and return home to build their future. Now that's ROI!



**Laura Bradshaw**

Macon County Economic  
Development



[culver.edu/tsds](https://culver.edu/tsds)

September 24th & 25th 2025  
Hannibal, Missouri