



# The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

## Corporate Profile: The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

### Overview

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic and influential organization dedicated to fostering economic growth and prosperity in Bloomington, and Monroe County a vibrant city and county located in the heart of Indiana. As a prominent business association, the Chamber serves as the leading advocate for the local business community, working tirelessly to create an environment where businesses can thrive and flourish. Established in 1915, the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has played a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape of the region. With a rich history of supporting businesses of all sizes and industries, the Chamber has emerged as a trusted resource and a driving force behind the growth and development of the local economy.

### Our Mission

The Chamber's mission is to promote the success of its members by providing valuable resources, fostering meaningful connections, and advocating for a favorable business climate. It actively engages with a diverse range of businesses, including small enterprises, large corporations, and startups, offering an inclusive platform that caters to the unique needs of each member.

### Key Objectives and Initiatives

**Advocacy and Public Policy:** The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce serves as the unified voice of the business community, advocating for pro-business policies at the local, regional, and state levels.

**Networking and Business Development:** The Chamber provides numerous networking opportunities, including regular business luncheons, industry-specific events, and seminars, fostering connections among its members.

**Education and Professional Development:** Recognizing the importance of continuous learning, the Chamber organizes workshops, training sessions, and educational seminars to equip businesses with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing business landscape.

**Community Engagement and Collaboration:** The Chamber actively engages with the local community, partnering with various organizations and nonprofits to address key issues and contribute to the overall well-being of Bloomington.

**Business Resources and Support:** The Chamber offers a comprehensive suite of resources designed to assist businesses at every stage of their growth journey.

### Our Team

**Eric Spoonmore** – President & CEO

**Stacia Briggs** – Member Services Coordinator

**Stacy Bruce** – Director of Member Services

**Christopher Emge** – Director of Advocacy & Public Policy

**Hannah Hutton** – Program Coordinator

**Kaytee Lorentzen** – Director of Communications & Events

**Katie Sensabaugh** – Director of the Chamber's Foundation & Internal Operations

**Jim Shelton** – Government Relations Manager

### Contact Us:

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### Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm

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## **Background**

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership organization serving as our community's leading advocate for business. We offer unique leadership opportunities, meaningful volunteer activities, and exclusive business-building programs focused on critical economic, civic, and social priorities. Chamber members support each other and community initiatives, sharing information and resources to help create economic opportunity and community well-being. At the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, we believe that better business leads to a better community.

## **History**

Since the start of the twentieth century, Bloomington business leaders have collaborated with merchant organizations to support the city and attract employers to the area. The Retail Merchants' Bureau and the Commercial Club were two groups that formed in the early 1900s to address business concerns within the community. The Commercial Club was a loosely organized predecessor to the Chamber of Commerce. In spring 1915, local businesses and organizations came together to officially form the Chamber of Commerce. It quickly gained members and expanded its business-focused efforts to include advocacy in city government. Early Chamber of Commerce efforts focused on improving roads, publicizing the town, and bringing a sense of unity to the Bloomington business community.

## **Our Values**

- Leadership – “We know the way, go the way, and show the way”
  - Encompasses: Authority, credibility, knowledge, strength, confidence, vision, articulation
- Community – “We believe in Bloomington”
  - Encompasses: Collaboration, outreach, caring, and seeing self as part of the greater whole
- Integrity – “We walk the talk”
  - Encompasses: Principles, honesty, fairness, thoughtfulness, compassion
- Reliability – “You can count on us”
  - Encompasses: Dedication, listening, responsiveness, loyalty, organization, clarity