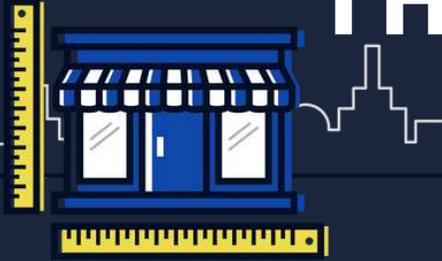


# THE BUSINESS LEAD



SUMMER 2022



## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

If you are searching for ways to connect with area students and present what your business is all about, The Bluff Country Collaborative can help.

From job shadowing to presentations, to mentoring opportunities, the BCC team can offer ways for you to connect with young adults and generate interest in career fields and career options in your industry through career connected learning.

What a great opportunity to build a bridge with students and potential future employees. Read more about BBC on page 2 and learn how to showcase your business!

BY MICHELLE ELLINGSON  
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY  
CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

To subscribe to the Business Lead Newsletter, contact City Hall at [cityhall@caledoniamn.gov](mailto:cityhall@caledoniamn.gov) or call 507-725-3450

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# BLUFF COUNTRY COLLABORATIVE-FUTURE FORWARD

The vision of the Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC) is to ensure the economic vitality of rural communities in Houston and Fillmore counties by integrating schools, employers, local government, and community resources in an effort to provide meaningful, hands-on experience to the next generation of workers. Hence, *FutureForward*.

*FutureForward* offers an easy way to support local economic prosperity, find and manage partners, set up and track career-connected learning activities, build relevant educator capacity and pipeline, and leverage young people's innovative and diverse ideas. What does this mean for your business?

By partnering with *FutureForward*, you can provide skill-based opportunities that support professional development and talent retention, attract and develop a talent pipeline, and leverage young people's innovative and diverse ideas.

Features include:

- Create a company profile with video and photo upload that showcase careers in your business.
- Post company-sponsored site tours, job shadows, student projects, internships, and teacher externships.
- Lead or partner on classroom instruction to bring real world relevancy to educational topics.
- Push notifications of events to students and educators for streamlined communication.
- Built-in direct message functionality between educators and business professionals.
- Easy "opt in" and "opt out" preferences.
- Business feedback tools and reporting.

**But the best feature is, it's FREE to employers!**



FutureForward™

Be a part of the career-connected learning experience by joining FutureForward™ for free today. Connect with the next generation of our workforce, build your workforce pipeline, and play a key role in helping students identify what career they want to pursue after high school.

The overall experience was great. Giving students the ability to see that there are other opportunities besides college that are viable options for their future. It was both generalized and company specific, but gave students the ability to see how this company as well as industry operates.

- Teacher, Site Visit

source: bluffcountrycollaborative.com

This was a fun and value-added event for our store! We were excited to provide insight on the retail business and inspire future career opportunities to students in our community!

-Employer, Site Visit



## BCC Industry Partners in Caledonia







## Upcoming Events

**Caledonia Community Picnic:** Sponsored by Community Connections on June 11th at North Park beginning at 11:30am. Bring a dish to pass and your own drink and tableware. Meet your neighbors and make new connections!

**Founder's Day Celebration:** Founders Day will be celebrated June 16th through June 18th with a variety show, parade, car show, 5K run/walk, vendors, a children's fun fest, and music.

**Community Pool Party:** Meet at the pool on July 30th. Watch for details!

**Music in the Park:** Hosted by the Caledonia Chamber and the City of Caledonia at Gazebo Park. Event dates include June 28, July 12, July 19, and July 26.

**National Night Out:** August 2nd. More information will be provided as the date draws near.

**Houston County Fair:** August 17th through August 21st.



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The property at 111 E. Grove Street, formerly The Ranch and owned by Lee and Elsie Babler in partnership with Tamiko Hubka Steele, is in the beginning stages of some magnificent renovations. By removing the existing exterior, the original brickwork was exposed to reveal the building's construction date of 1911. Plans for the building include a hair salon on the lower level with space for an Air Bnb on the upper level. Adjacent to the building stands a barn which will also eventually be renovated.

The Joshua and Claire O'Brien property at 115 E. Main continues to show significant progress with the completion of the garage behind the building. In addition, the front of the building has been removed to expose the interior. The next steps in the project include the plumber laying pipe for the bathroom, pouring cement for the new addition, and finishing the stairs for the apartment. Front windows from La Crosse Glass will be arriving soon.



The Ranch building exterior renovation included removal of the white facade to expose the building's original brick. The brick was then cleaned and restored.