

October 2024

Connecting the Chamber with members in a monthly news source.



ST. JOSEPH  
Chamber of Commerce

# Connections

## The President's Perspective

As we have a busy fall of workforce development programming, such as the My Success Event and Manufacturing Day, we're excited to bring you some insights into the topic of career readiness that's both timely and crucial for our business community. As we continue to build a vibrant local economy, equipping our emerging talent with the skills and knowledge they need is essential for our collective success.

### Why Career Readiness Matters

Career readiness isn't just a buzzword—it's a vital part of preparing our future workforce. It's about ensuring that students and job seekers are not only aware of but also prepared for the expectations and demands of the modern workplace. This includes everything from soft skills, like communication and problem-solving, to practical knowledge about industry standards and professional conduct.

### What's In It for You?

For businesses, investing in career readiness means having a pool of candidates who are not just eager to work, but also ready to hit the ground running. By fostering strong partnerships with local schools, vocational programs, and training organizations, you can help shape a pipeline of skilled and knowledgeable workers. This can lead to:

- **Reduced Training Time:** Candidates who are career-ready often require less time to get up to speed, allowing you to focus on more strategic tasks.
- **Increased Employee Retention:** Well-prepared employees are generally more engaged and satisfied with their roles, which can translate to lower turnover rates.

- **Stronger Community Ties:** By contributing to local career readiness initiatives, you're also strengthening your connection to the community and positioning your business as a supportive and proactive employer.

### How Can You Get Involved?

There are several ways you can contribute to career readiness:

1. **Offer Internships and Apprenticeships:** These opportunities provide hands-on experience and help bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application.
2. **Support Career Readiness Programs:** Many organizations and schools run programs designed to enhance career skills. Consider sponsoring these initiatives or participating.
3. **Provide Feedback:** Share your insights with educational institutions and training partners about the skills and qualifications you value in potential hires.

### Looking Ahead

Though we have made some tremendous progress as a community, let's continue to work together to enhance career readiness. If you have ideas or would like to explore collaboration opportunities, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Natalie Hawn  
President & CEO

## NEW MEMBERS

The following businesses and individuals have been approved for membership in the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce:

### Midwest Method Strength & Performance

Tricia Turpin  
218 S. Seventh St. (01)  
(816) 722-2984  
tricia@mwmmethod.com  
www.mwmmethod.com

#### Fitness

### On the Go Taxi

Albert Woolsey  
1302 S. 10th St. (03)  
(816) 685-8847  
taxiservice@stjoseph.com  
www.taxiservicestjoseph.com

#### Transportation

### Scrap Management Industries

Ken Barber  
422 Lower Lake Road (04)  
(816) 447-3654  
kbarber@smirecyclers.com  
www.smirecyclers.com

#### Recycling

### Mount Olivet Cemetery

Lisa Rocha Gann  
2600 Lovers Lane (06)  
(816) 279-5005  
lrochagann@cemeterieskcsj.org

#### Cemeteries

### Caribe Fusion Gourmet LLC

Aldrit Melendez  
St. Joseph, MO  
(816) 344-0373

#### Catering

### Sonic Drive-In

Chris Willette  
5810 Lake Ave.  
(816) 238-4520  
sonic3573@inspirepartners.net

#### Restaurants

### Sunny B Creations MO, LLC

Brooklynn Cogdill  
3500 N. Village Drive Ste. 207 (06)  
(816) 341-3328  
sunnybcreationsmo@gmail.com  
sunny-b-creations-mo-llc.square.site

#### Retail

Stifel - Heidi LaFave  
1806 Oakridge Circle (08)  
(816) 364-3334

lafaveh@stifel.com  
www.lpglwealthmanagement.com  
**Financial Services (Associate)**

### Big Daddy BBQ

Malkaam Muhammad  
2121 Francis St. (01)  
(816) 390-7638  
bdbbq2024@yahoo.com

#### Restaurants

### Los Arcos

Maribel Sanchez  
6942 King Hill Ave. (04)  
(816) 558-6143  
losarcos.stjoe@outlook.com  
www.losarcosstreetacos.com

#### Restaurants

### BMO Bank

Alex Trigg  
4305 Frederick Ave., Ste. 202 (06)  
(816) 236-1800  
alex.trigg@bmo.com  
www.bmo.com  
**Banks/Savings & Loans**

**PETE'S**  
**PEST CONTROL**  
**(816) 293-2727**  
**www.petethebugguy.com**

# October Calendar

For more information, call 816/232-4461. CREDIT CARD RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE, [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**2 Economic Development Summit** **Wednesday, Oct. 2**  
7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., \$40  
Presented by R/S Electric Corp.  
Fulkerson Center, MWSU  
4525 Downs Drive  
Come hear "Knocking on the Central Bank's Door," from former President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City at this event. In addition to the keynote address, attendees will hear about local economic development highlights and learn about new jobs planned and capital investments being made by St. Joseph companies.  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461  
or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**2, 16 Circle of Influence** **Oct. 2 & 16 and Oct. 10 & 24**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Guests Free  
2, 16  
10, 24  
Circle of Influence is a leads group composed of small business professionals looking to exchange direct client referrals and leads. The group also provides a forum for the discussion of issues which businesses commonly encounter. Only one member per profession/speciality in each group is allowed. Cost is \$100 to join. There are two groups, one that meets the first and third Wednesdays and another that meets the second and fourth Thursdays. (Holidays affect this schedule.) Contact Tony Luke for more information, [luke@saintjoseph.com](mailto:luke@saintjoseph.com) or (816) 364-4101. Meetings held at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 1201 Woodbine.

**3 Manufacturing Day** **Thursday, Oct. 3**  
Manufacturing Day is a national day set aside to recognize the importance of the manufacturing industry and the diverse, highly-skilled, jobs that are available in our community. Held in October of each year, companies open their doors to students to display and discuss the industry and the possible career paths available.

**8 Lunch & Learn Seminar** **Tuesday, Oct. 8**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$12  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.  
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
3003 Frederick Ave.  
Lunch by Marek's Catering & Delicatessen  
Stacy Kerns, founder of Sisters of Solace, believes that culture is the heart of any healthy, thriving organization. She'll discuss practical ways to assess, curate and implement the culture you truly envision at this month's Lunch & Learn. Come learn from her experiences and share your own.  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461  
or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**10 DIPLOMATS CLUB Breakfast** **Thursday, Oct. 10**  
7:15 a.m., \$10  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., John Joe Insurance & Rogers Pharmacy  
Breakfast provided  
Altec Industries, Inc.  
2106 S. Riverside Road  
The Diplomats Club is a fun group that provides opportunities to promote your business and serve as a link between the Chamber and the community. Join them for their monthly meeting!  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)

**15,16 My Success Event** **Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 15 & 16**  
Presented by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health  
Civic Arena  
100 N. Fourth St.  
Thousands of high school students will learn more about possible career paths at this year's My Success Event. Representatives from St. Joseph businesses will interact with students during this two-day event.

**17,24 BUSINESS after HOURS** **Thursday, Oct. 17** **& Thursday, Oct. 24**  
5 to 7 p.m., Free **5 to 7 p.m., Free**  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc.  
Castle Bridge Event Center  
8403 S.W. U.S. Hwy 59  
Bring your business cards and prepare to meet your next business connection. Chiefs event is hosted by Lavender Lane, Crockett Family Farm Produce, LLC, Yates Limousine Service, Somewhere on a Beach Tanning & Boutique, Collision Repair Specialists, First Option Bank, Stifel, St. Jo Frontier Casino, MacKenzie Jones, American Family Insurance.  
Chiefs-themed event. Just because it's a bye week, doesn't mean you can't celebrate the Chiefs!  
Enjoy food, drinks & great conversation at these events.  
Felix Street Gourmet  
722 Felix St.

**26 Donut Dash 5k+** **Saturday, Oct. 26**  
8 a.m., \$35, includes T-shirt  
Presented by Gold-N-Glaze Donut & Coffee Shop  
Patee House Museum  
1202 Penn St.  
Join us for a family-friendly 5k+ run/walk through historic St. Joseph, featuring and benefiting Mount Mora Cemetery, Robidoux Row and Patee House museums. Strollers and pets welcome. Stay after the run for brunch at the Hi-Ho! Children 12 and younger are \$12. More info and register at [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com).  
Fee is \$45 after 10/17 (no shirt)

**28 Women's Leadership Group** **Monday, Oct. 28**  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Presented by Altec Industries, Inc., BMS Logistics, Inc., Candlewood Suites, Human Resource Management Association of Northwest Missouri, RitePack, Inc. Sealed Air Corporation, Top Property Realty LLC and Triumph Foods  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
816/232-4461 or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)  
Each month the Chamber and Northwest Missouri State University's Small Business Development Center bring business topics to light that are important to women. This month join the group on the annual "She Means Business" Shop Crawl. Visit women-owned businesses, get a goodie bag and more. More info on our website.

**30 Small Business Summit** **Wednesday, Oct. 30**  
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$25  
Presented by Family Investment Center Inc. and SJC Marketing  
Fulkerson Center, MWSU  
4525 Downs Drive  
See a Cup of Joe presentation, learn from specialists during breakout sessions on small business topics, get consultations during the Resource Fair and hear a keynote speaker. Lunch is included. This year hear Michael Mueller, who leads performance science and growth at Two Story, present "The Future of Work: Harnessing the Power of Machine-Human Collaboration."  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:  
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or [www.saintjoseph.com](http://www.saintjoseph.com)