

Quarterly Impact Brief

GSC's quarterly Impact Brief keeps stakeholders informed on key wins and regional progress.

Q1 2026 brought real momentum — statewide awards, workforce innovation, a packed StageWorks, a first-of-its-kind workforce roundtable, and the launch of a regional economic development district. Here's what we accomplished together.

Greater St. Cloud Region Earns Three EDAM Statewide Awards

In January, our region took home three statewide honors from the Economic Development Association of Minnesota.

Congratulations to this year's honorees:

- Economic Developer of the Year — Leslie Dingmann, GSC
- Emerging Professional of the Year — Brian Fleming, Sherburne County EDA
- Project of the Year (Greater MN) — BriAnne & Craig Hern, The House Food & Tap, St. Joseph



EDAM honorees

[Award videos available on YouTube](#)

DEED Grant Fuels 5 Main Street Revitalization Projects

We are proud to share updates on five projects awarded through the DEED Main Street Economic Revitalization Grant that was awarded in 2025:

- City of Foley
 - Thorsten Holdings, LLC | 201 4th Ave. N.
Renovation and façade improvement
\$37,680
Project complete
- City of St. Cloud
 - 706 West St. Germain St.
Major facility rehab and shell renovation
\$199,000
Actively under construction
 - 300 East St. Germain St.
Facility renovation and repair
\$99,999
Actively under construction
 - Wirth Center for the Performing Arts | 11 N 7th Ave.
Demo and buildout
\$199,000
Actively under construction
 - Fitzharris Ski, Bike & Outdoor | 105–109 7th Ave. S.
Structural and mechanical repairs
\$52,800
Actively under construction



Facade improvements completed at
201 4th Ave. N., Foley



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

3

NEW INVESTORS
Anderson Center
BMO Commercial Bank
Reliable Premium Management

3

NEW BOARD MEMBERS
Matt Gaffy, Scipi Companies
Dr. Gregory Tomso, SCSU
Brian Voerding, IF

3

**BUSINESS ATTRACTION
PROJECTS**

3

**BUSINESS EXPANSION
PROJECTS**

29

BRE VISITS COMPLETED

- LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE
- PUBLISHED 2025 ANNUAL REPORT
- WELCOMED COMMUNITY IMPACT INTERN, JORDYN PATRICK

Sponsored by Visionary Partner Investors

 CentraCare®

 Initiative
FOUNDATION

Granite
Partners



Q1 2026
Jan. 1 - Mar. 31

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StageWorks: A Full House

Since launching in May 2025, StageWorks has quickly become a cornerstone of the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. As of January 2026, all private offices are fully occupied with only a limited number of cubicles remaining — a strong early signal that the shared workspace model is meeting a real market need in Central Minnesota. [Learn more about StageWorks](#)



StageWorks interior

GSC Secures \$180,000 to Expand Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

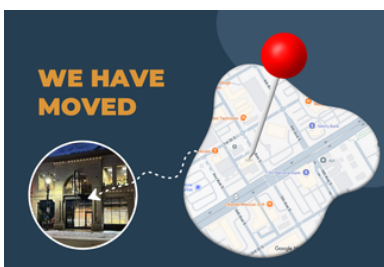
GSC was awarded \$180,000 through DEED's Small Business Assistance Partnership Grant — part of a coalition led by Initiative Foundation — to expand entrepreneur support including 1:1 coaching, StageWorks programming, startup memberships, ILT Academy scholarships, and a regional Pitch Competition.

GSC Hosts FAME USA Exploratory Roundtable

GSC convened 20+ regional employers to explore bringing FAME USA to Central Minnesota — a nationally recognized earn-and-learn apprenticeship model that would be Minnesota's first. If advanced, GSC would serve as chapter administrator while employers lead — grounding the program in real industry needs.

GSC Partners in Region 7W Economic Development District

The Region 7W Economic Development District has formally organized and held its first board meeting — a major regional milestone. Bringing together county commissioners and partners including Initiative Foundation, Benton Economic Partnership, and GSC, the board is already identifying priorities and building frameworks. If awarded federal designation, it would be the first time in 40+ years our region has held this status, unlocking new capacity for infrastructure and community development. Thank you to Initiative Foundation for their foundational leadership.



New Location
113 5th Ave. So.,
St. Cloud, MN 56301



[Watch the](#)
[Q1 Impact Brief](#)
[Video](#)



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