

Quarterly Impact Brief

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

Q2 2026 brought real momentum — from hosting its first Investor Experience Forum to selecting DisruptHR St. Cloud 2.0 speakers, opening Innovation and Employer of Choice Award applications, recognizing Gail Cruikshank with SCSU's 2026 External Partner Award, and capping the quarter with a \$50,000 FAME USA Catalyst Grant.

GSC Hosted First Investor Experience Forum

GSC hosted its first Investor Experience Forum, *From Blueprint to Reality - St. Cloud's Downtown Transformation*, that focused on Main Street revitalization projects, bringing together more than 20 investors, partners, and civic leaders for a firsthand look at the transformative redevelopment underway in the community. The walking tour offered an on the ground perspective on progress being made through MSER grant redevelopment, with Minnesota DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek joining as a special guest.



Attendees at the *From Blueprint to Reality* event.

GSC Awarded \$50,000 FAME USA Catalyst Grant

GSC was awarded a \$50,000 FAME Catalyst Grant from the National Association of Manufacturers' Manufacturing Institute, making Central Minnesota one of only six regions in the country selected to launch a new chapter of the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME USA) and the first of its kind in Minnesota. The grant funds the research, planning, and partnership building needed to establish an employer led model that connects local manufacturers with community colleges and technical schools to deliver structured, hands on workforce training.

GSC Wraps Up 5 Main Street Revitalization Projects

All five projects awarded 2025 DEED Main Street Economic Revitalization Grant funds are complete.

- City of Foley - Thorsten Holdings, LLC (201 4th Ave. N.) - Renovation and façade improvements valued at \$37,680
- City of St. Cloud
 - 706 W. St. Germain St. - Major facility rehabilitation/shell renovation (\$199,900)
 - 300 E. St. Germain St. - Facility renovation/repair (\$99,999)
 - Wirth Center for the Performing Arts (11 N. 7th Ave.) - Demolition/buildout (\$199,000)
 - Fitzharris Ski, Bike & Outdoor (105-109 7th Ave. S.) - Structural/mechanical repairs (\$52,800)

The investment breakdown:

- DEED (state) grant funds: \$588,479
- Private matching capital leveraged: \$1,569,541
- Total combined investment: \$2,158,020
- Leverage ratio: roughly \$2.67 in private capital for every \$1 in state grant dollars
- Geographically, three buildings were located in Stearns County and two in Benton County.
- Combined, the projects created 22-26 full-time equivalent jobs after redevelopment.



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

7

NEW INVESTORS YTD

Q2 NEW INVESTORS
 North Star Air Show
 Dakota Wealth
 Premier Real Estate Services -
 Marty Czech
 Nichols WD

3

BUSINESS ATTRACTION
 PROJECTS

4

BUSINESS EXPANSION
 PROJECTS

30

BRE VISITS COMPLETED

5

MAIN STREET ECONOMIC
 REVITALIZATION GRANT
 PROJECTS COMPLETED

Sponsored by Visionary Partner Investors

 CentraCare®

 **Initiative**
 FOUNDATION

Granite
 Partners



Q2 2026
Apr. 1 - June 30



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GSC's Gail Cruikshank Receives SCSU's 2026 External Partner Award

GSC's own Gail Cruikshank was selected as the recipient of the *2026 External Partner Award* by SCSU's Division of Student Affairs, a recognition with more than a decade of history honoring individuals who have made meaningful impact in partnership with the university's students, faculty, and staff. We couldn't be prouder of Gail and the relationships she continues to build.



L to R: Emily Davis (EPIC) and Gail Cruikshank, Leslie Dingmann, and NeTia Bauman (GSC).

GSC Co-Hosts First Community Intern Day

GSC hosted its first Community Intern Day, bringing together 36 interns from 10 organizations for networking, professional development, wellness, and community engagement activities, including elevator pitch practice, a young professionals panel, a wellness walk, and a financial wellbeing session. Granite Partners hosted the event. The day strengthened connections between interns, local employers, and the community, supporting the region's talent pipeline and encouraging future professionals to build their careers in Central Minnesota.



GSC Selects DisruptHR St. Cloud 2.0 Speakers

GSC is proud to announce the speakers for DisruptHR St. Cloud 2.0, set for September 24, 2026. Building on last year's event that drew more than 200 attendees, this high energy gathering challenges conventional thinking about talent, culture, and the future of work.

This year's featured speakers include:

- Jeremy Schreifels, Milestones - Workplace Culture - Listening
- Pam Bjerke, Stearns Bank - Leading with Empathy
- Clare Richards, Impacks - Volunteerism: The Secret Ingredient to Developing Rising Stars
- Julie Winters, DeZurik - AI: The Competitive Advantage
- Matt Gaffy, SCIPI - Benefits - ESOP: Ownership Transition Preserves Culture
- Lacey Schirmers, GREAT Theatre - Stop Hiring for Fit; Start Hiring for Character
- Julie Whitney, Gate City Bank - Competitive Advantage - Human Participation
- Amy Herbert Knopf, AccessPlusGlobal - Trauma Informed Leadership
- Christine Lepkowski, SCSU - Strategy - Disrupting the Gender Pay Gap
- Alexis Byrd, Speaker and Presenter - Middle Manager: The Most Endangered Species Within Your Organization

[Register for DisruptHR St. Cloud 2.0](#)



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