GSC GREATER ST. CLOUD

Q3 2026

July 1 - Sept. 30

Quarterly Impact Brief

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

Q3 2026 brought real momentum — from launching the search for our next Talent & Community Impact Director, naming the new EPIC Managing Director, hosting DISRUPT St. Cloud 2.0, and much more!

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Hosted in Greater St. Cloud

GSC partnered with the Initiative Foundation, City of St. Joseph, and University of Minnesota Extension to host the 2026 Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference on Sept. 17–18. GSC was proud to partner with the Initiative Foundation in nominating St. Joseph as this year's host community. The conference showed entrepreneurs, economic developers, community leaders, placemakers, and future builders from across Minnesota what makes our region unique: communities that work together across the rural-urban divide to advance entrepreneurship, strengthen local economies, and build a more connected and prosperous future.



L to R: Michael Heen (Central SBDC), Brian Voerding (Initiative Foundation), and NeTia Bauman (GSC) presenting at the CEC Conference

Talent & Community Impact Director Search Launched

For more than a decade, Gail Cruikshank has been the face of talent work in Greater St. Cloud. After 12 years building a role — and a body of work — that didn't exist before she arrived, she's announced she'll retire in May 2027. When GSC created the Talent & Community Impact Director position in 2014, it was among the first in the region to treat talent attraction and community belonging as core economic development strategy. Cruikshank ran with it — helping build JobSpot and St. Cloud Shines, launching DISRUPT St. Cloud, and leading MYALP, the Employer of Choice program, and Talent Summits connecting more than 250 employers and job seekers. GSC has launched the search for its next Talent & Community Impact Director, guided by a succession plan built for continuity. Cruikshank will stay on through the transition, moving to part-time in early 2027 before her full retirement in May. Thank you to Board members Lori Kloos and Paul Radeke, and investors Laurie Putnam and Sara Wegman, for serving on the search committee.

[Learn more]

EPIC Names New Managing Director

EPIC (Exploring Potential Interests & Careers) has a new leader. Angie Kalthoff started as Managing Director on Sept. 25. She'll lead the regional effort that gives Central Minnesota high school students hands-on ways to explore careers, including EPIC Student Day, FutureForward™, ExPerIenCe Kits and the EPIC Playbook.



Angie Kalthoff
New EPIC Managing Coordinator

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

12
NEW INVESTORS YTD

Q3 NEW INVESTORS
Mortenson
Hansen & Company
Woodworks Inc.
Bunyan Energy Center
EssilorLuxottica
Niron Magnetics

1
BUSINESS ATTRACTION PROJECT

4
BUSINESS EXPANSION PROJECTS

4
IMPACT STUDIES COMPLETED

Sponsored by Visionary Partner Investors

CentraCare

Initiative FOUNDATION

Granite Partners

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Q3 Video

Quarterly Impact Brief

GSC Hosts DISRUPT St. Cloud 2.0

GSC hosted DISRUPT St. Cloud 2.0 on Sept. 24 where more than 150 attendees brought high energy to the premier GSC event that challenges conventional thinking about talent, culture, and the future of work.





Thanks to this year's featured speakers:

- Jeremy Schreifels, Milestones
- Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, JVD Consulting
- Clare Richards, Impacks
- Julie Winters, DeZurik
- Matt Gaffy, SCIPI
- Lacey Schirmers, GREAT Theatre
- Julie Whitney, Gate City Bank
- Amy Herbert Knopf, AccessPlusGlobal
- Christine Lepkowski, SCSU
- Alexis Byrd, Speaker and Presenter

Congratulations to Our Award Recipients:

- Catalyst Award - Gail Cruikshank, GSC [Watch Gail's acceptance video]
- Champion Award - Joan Schatz, Park Industries [Watch Joan's acceptance video]



L to R: Joan Schatz (Champion Award recipient) and Gail Cruikshank (Catalyst Award recipient)

Thanks to Our HR Affinity Group Planners:

- Jenny Paulsrud, PCI
- Mardi Noyes, Microbiologics
- Jen Roelke, Sourcewell
- Pam Bjerke, Stearns Bank
- Alyssa Cross, Park Industries
- Tammy Stark, Career Solutions
- Kelly Walz, Rice Companies
- Jen Matzke, SCIPI
- Karen Schmidt, SCR
- Lynn Lobe, RPM
- Brittany Haycraft, Falcon Bank

And a huge thank to our Event Sponsors...none of this would be possible without the generous support of PCI, Park Industries, Sourcewell, Stearns Bank, Microbiologics, SCIPI Companies, St Cloud Refrigeration, and Align.

Click here to view the GSC Progress Dashboard

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