Enjoy a business casual lunch, celebrate the successes of 2015, and learn what the Ed/Glen Chamber has planned for 2016.
connect

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Cathy Hamilton, Chair
BARBERMurphy Group
Sam Guarino, Vice Chair
Belita Milano Restaurants
Emily Gates, Immediate Past Chair
Individual Member
Josh Lowe, Treasurer
West & Company, LLC
Philip Lading, Legal Counsel
Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, P.C.

Chamber Staff
Desirée Bennyhoff
President & CEO
ceo@edglenchamber.com
Kerry Smith
Membership Director
membership@edglenchamber.com
Kathy Hentz
Administrative Assistant
office@edglenchamber.com

2015 Directors
Danelle Brown
Marcel Brown Technology Services
Elizabeth Heil
Scheffel Boyle
Gary Hoggatt, Jr.
1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Lisa Klaustermeier
Anderson Hospital
Nicole Kline
Extra Help, Inc.
Skip Sponeuman
Walmart of Glen Carbon
David Toby
FGB Edwardsville Bank
Dave Viox
AAdvantage Insurance Group, Inc.

Vision
The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce will be the preferred provider of watch-dog, education and advocacy services that form a mission-critical catalyst for business success.

Mission
The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization, dedicated to a strong, private sector regional economy.

Guiding Principles
Chambers of Commerce honor and respect capitalism and well-informed private sector job creators as a central and foundational element of regional and national prosperity. Chambers of Commerce actively facilitate collaboration and open discussion between business and public officials through education, business advocacy and leadership.

2015 Ambassadors
Breck Ahlers, Extra Help, Inc.
Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank
Dr. Eric Dixon, SPORTCHIRO+
David Janes, Scott Credit Union
Amanda Linton, Northwestern Mutual
Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments
Rob Pickerell, Regions Bank*
Sara Sanderson, Dimond Bros. Insurance
Lauren Smith, TheBANK of Edwardsville
Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois
Erin Townzen, Brickman Orthodontics
Walter Williams, City of Edwardsville

* denotes committee chair

2016 Membership Meeting & Luncheon
Learn what your chamber of commerce has planned for 2016 at the 6th Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon, scheduled for 11:30am-1pm Monday, January 25 in the Leclaire Room on the N.O. Nelson campus of Lewis and Clark Community College. In 2013, Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce leadership had the great pleasure of working with retired business executive Robert McClellan to craft a new strategic plan, which included adopting new mission and vision statements, guiding principles, and core values. 2016 will be an exciting third year of implementing strategic change and continued progress for the Ed/Glen Chamber, and we hope you will attend the Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon to help us kick off 2016 with the unveiling of our annual plan of work.

This business casual luncheon is an opportunity for members to become familiar with the Ed/Glen Chamber’s 2016 menu of services and learn about the many ways to get involved. See page 5 for additional information.

WE’RE MOVING.

We proudly announce our new location as of February 1, 2016:
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
edoglen
Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization, dedicated to a strong, private sector regional economy.

phone: 618.656.7600 fax: 618: 656.7611
special investors

Gold Level
Anderson Hospital Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level
Ameren Illinois Utilities AT&T Mobility Edwardsville Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits Meridian Village Sen’s Club AB78 Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC Scott Credit Union The BANK of Edwardsville Walgreens Walmart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level

Premier Level

save the date

1/6 Wednesday 8-9am Chamber Q&A Ed/Glen Chamber Office 200 University Park Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

1/12 Tuesday 12-1pm networking@noon TOPIC: ‘Delivering Happiness’ Edison’s Entertainment Complex 2477 South IL Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

1/14 Thursday 4pm Ribbon Cutting The Bedroom Store 1508 Troy Road Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/21 Thursday 5-7pm Business After 5 at Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill w/ Illinois Business Journal 2511 South IL Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/25 Monday 11:30am-1pm Annual Membership Meeting N.O. Nelson Leclaire Room 600 Troy Road Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

1/26 Tuesday 4pm Ribbon Cutting Hot 4 Yoga, LLC 694 East Vandalia Street Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/2 Tuesday 7:30-8:45am ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Kick-Off Event Jon Davis Wrestling Center 616B Center Grove Road Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

2/9 Tuesday 7:15-8am Morning B2B Networking Glazy Squares 443 South Buchanan Street Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

2/18 Thursday 5–7pm Business After 5 J.F. Electric 100 Lake Front Parkway Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/12 Saturday 5:30pm Annual Gala & Auction Meridian Ballroom SIUE Morris University Center Edwardsville, IL 62026 RSVP Online

4/7 Thursday 7:30am Mayor’s Legislative Breakfast – State of the City/Village at Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities 1210 North Main Street Edwardsville, IL 62025 RSVP Online

6/24 Friday 7:30am Annual Ed/Glen Chamber Golf Tournament Sunset Hills Country Club 2525 South IL Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 62025

Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion, and Purpose by Zappos.com, Inc. founder Tony Hsieh is our book for all six of the Ed/Glen Chamber’s 2016 networking@noon sessions. This year’s theme will detail the art of customer service and is a must for every employee! Hsieh embodies the belief that customer service is the responsibility of the entire company, not just a department. Topical discussions will be facilitated each session, along with a networking activity. Prepare for great insights and lively interaction! Reading the book is not a requirement to participate in n@n!!

Ed/Glen Chamber leadership staff has worked diligently to develop a business-centric initiative designed to provide professionals tools to improve leadership acumen, home effective communication skills, expand their network, connect with mentors, and ultimately strengthen our business community. The 2016 signature kick-off event will be hosted from 7:30-8:45am Tuesday, February 2 at the Jon Davis Wrestling Center in Edwardsville. RSVP is required.
connect
the newly connected

Illinois Center for Autism
Cindy Guthrie
Not-for-Profit Educational Agency
548 South Ruby Lane
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618.398.7500
www.illinoiscenterforautism.org

Plocher Construction Company, Inc.
Scott Plocher
General Construction
2808 Thole Plocher Road
Highland, IL 62249
618.654.9408
www.plocherco.com

Signarama
Shahid Pyarali
Sign Shop
4 Club Centre Court, Suite G
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618.692.0300
www.signarama-edwardsville.com

The Bedroom Store
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Retail Furniture & Mattress Store
1508 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618.406.7806
www.thebedroomstore.com

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Mon. - Fri. 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sun. Closed

Custom Orthotics
Made in House!
We look forward to a successful 2016!

Enjoy a business casual lunch, celebrate the successes of 2015, and learn what the Ed/Glen Chamber has planned for 2016.

Business focused. Community centered.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**January 25**

**11:30am–1pm**

N.O. Nelson Leclaire Room

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$25 Per Person

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce  
1 North Research Drive  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
p: 618.656.7600  
f: 618.656.7611
Dave Viox:
About TheBANK of Edwardsville’s Commercial Banking Group

I moved into the area in 1989 and didn’t know anything about the banking situation. So I started checking around and contacted TheBANK of Edwardsville, and I was pleasantly surprised at how welcoming they were and the way they did business. I was completely sold right from the start.

So when I was looking for new office space for my business, I never even thought about going to any other institution. I was happy to work with TheBANK. I sat down with my commercial banker, Kyle David, and he explained the different programs available for my situation. There were several different options available, and the one we worked out was perfect for what I needed. The entire process was extremely satisfying. Everything was taken care of.

Over the years I’ve been able to get to know so many good people that work at TheBANK. They’re not only great business partners to have, but many are good friends. That’s such a big part of being comfortable with your bank. When you know the people you’re doing business with — when you know them personally and know that they’re quality people — you don’t have those questions, wondering if you’re going to be treated right.

Contact us today to find out how we can help you with all your business banking, lending, and investment needs:

618-659-4590
www.4thebank.com

MEMBER FDIC
We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber members who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of December. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

50+ YEARS
Buhrmester Paint & Wallpaper Inc.

30–39 YEARS
Center Grove Presbyterian Church

10–19 YEARS
Flanigan Law Office
Grand Rental Station
Slagle Financial
Mt. Joy Missionary Baptist Church
Lewis & Clark Boy Scouts of America
Edwardsville Arts Center

5–9 YEARS
Ed/Glen Habitat for Humanity
Hurford Architects, Inc.
Franzen Wealth Strategies, LLC
Joseph E. Meyer & Associates
Gerold Moving & Warehousing Company
Madison County Child Advocacy Center
St. John’s Community Care

1–4 YEARS
Watts Copy Systems
ABC Mobi Tele Com
Trinity Services, Inc.
Batteries Plus Bulbs
SAVE THE DATE
2016 Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction
DATE: Saturday, March 12, 2016
LOCATION: SIUE Meridian Ballroom
THEME: Platting the Future

Formal Invitations Coming Soon!

Please reserve ____ chamber member places at $60 each.
Please reserve ____ guest places at $70 each.

Business ________________________________________________________________
Contact _______________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________ Email _____________________________________
Names of Attendees ________________________________________________________

I am enclosing a check for $ ___________________________
Please invoice me in the amount of $ __________________

RSVP DEADLINE:
Tuesday, March 1
Rendering Sponsor: $2,000
Premium seating for eight (8)
Company provided with copy of attendee list
Company recognized from the podium & in PowerPoint presentation
Full page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter
Social media promotion & recognition on website

Schematic Sponsor: $1,500
Premium seating for six (6)
Company provided with copy of attendee list
Company recognized from the podium & in PowerPoint presentation
Half page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter
Social media promotion & recognition on website

Blueprint Sponsor: $1,000
Four (4) complimentary tickets to attend event
Company provided with copy of attendee list
Recognition in PowerPoint presentation & event program
Quarter page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter
Social media promotion & recognition on website

Pencil Sketch Sponsor: $500
Two (2) complimentary tickets to attend event
Recognition in event program
Eighth page color ad in event program & Ed/Glen Chamber newsletter
Social media promotion & recognition on website

Concept Sponsor: $250
Recognition in event program
Social media promotion & recognition on website

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Sponsorship Form

Business/Organization ___________________________________________________
Contact Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
                                                                                   ___________________________________________________________________
Phone _____________________________________________________________________
Email _____________________________________________________________________
We would like to sponsor at the ___________________ Level at $ __________

Please return with check, with check payable to:
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
1 North Research Drive     Edwardsville, IL 62025
phone: 618.656.7600     fax: 618.656.7611

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE:
      Tuesday, March 1
schmooze
business after hours
ribbon cuttings

Edwardsville Family Dentist, November 2

St. Louis Confluence Fab Lab (Lewis and Clark Community College), November 5

Edward Jones – Tim Mahnesmith, November 17

YCG Accounting, November 5

Edison’s Entertainment Complex Party Room, November 16

Plocher Construction Park Street Plaza Project, November 20
Accounting software can streamline your small business

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Our QuickBooks ProAdvisors can provide fast, effective answers to your QuickBooks problems, including training. We also provide training and support for other accounting software programs, including Peachtree, MAS 90 and MIP/Sage.

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St. Louis
St. Charles
Glen Carbon, IL
Gateway Regional Medical Center Nationally Recognized as Top Performer for Fifth Time

Gateway Regional Medical Center has been recognized as a 2014 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States.

Gateway Regional Medical Center was recognized as part of The Joint Commission’s 2015 annual report “America’s Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety,” for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care and immunization. Gateway Regional Medical Center is one of only 1,043 hospitals of more than 3,300 eligible hospitals in the United States to achieve the 2014 Top Performer distinction. Gateway Regional is the only hospital in Illinois to be recognized five consecutive years.

Gateway Regional was recognized in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 for its performance on accountability measure data for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care.

“Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high-quality health care. I commend the efforts of Gateway Regional Medical Center for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions,” said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

“We understand what matters most to patients at Gateway Regional is the quality and safety of the care they receive. That is why we have made it a top priority to improve positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes,” said Ed Cunningham, CEO of Gateway Regional Medical Center.

“We are proud to be named a Top Performer as it recognizes the knowledge, teamwork and dedication of our entire hospital staff.”

For more information about the Top Performer program, go to www.jointcommission.org/accreditation/top_performers.aspx.
Extraordinary Experience Providing Convenient Care

Knowledgeable, compassionate BJC doctors and physician assistants are on hand during the daytime, evenings and weekends, ready to help you with a variety of non-acute health problems. You don’t need to make an appointment, and our staff will accommodate your needs quickly and efficiently. **Plus, our co-pay is the same price as a primary care visit, which is often less expensive than a visit to an urgent care or emergency room.**

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Merges with GCS Credit Union

The board of Bell Community Credit Union of Alton recently entered into a merger agreement with GCS Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in the Metro East.

Approval of the merger was granted by the credit union’s regulatory agencies, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the National Credit Union Administration. All employees of BCCU have been retained and will continue to serve members through that location.

“BCCU has served their membership well for over 80 years and we are honored to be chosen to continue financial services to the membership of BCCU. We will continue the credit union philosophy of ‘people helping people’ that has made GCS successful for almost 75 years,” Keith Burton, president of GCS Credit Union, said in a statement.

The Bell Community Credit Union is a nonprofit, community-based financial institution established in 1940 originally to serve Illinois Bell Telephone employees from Alton to Cairo, Ill.

“The merger will bring added benefits to members of both credit unions. Current BCCU members will see expanded products and services while current members of GCS will be able to use the new location in the Alton area. GCS will now have eight Metro East locations,” Burton said.

All locations will be under the GCS name.

Founded in 1941 out of a single Granite City branch, GCS Credit Union, with approximately $309 million in assets, now serves over 41,000 members. Branches can be found in Edwardsville, Granite City, Collinsville, Madison, Ponitoon Beach, O’Fallon, and Alton. GCS offers convenient options for checking and savings accounts as well as personal, auto, and home equity loans.

Members can also stay up to date on their finances 24/7 through numerous ATM locations, a telephone audio response system, PCU online banking, and by visiting www.mygcscu.com.

Protecting your lifelong assets and providing security for your legacy is a crucial part of every business owners’ well-being. When you turn to a MM&R estate planning attorney, you know you have the most knowledgeable and experienced professionals on your side.

Whether you have a family member with special needs, require assistance in transitioning your family business to the next generation, or seek to minimize the potential tax burden to your heirs, we are dedicated to developing and implementing an effective and comprehensive estate plan which provides you with comfort and assurance.

MM&R has proven experience in the administration of every aspect of estate planning, including:

- Wills
- Trusts
- Charitable gift planning
- Estate tax planning
- Post-mortem estate planning
- Business succession planning
- Buy-sell agreements
- Guardianships
- Gift planning
- Probate administration
- Probate litigation
- Special needs trusts for disabled beneficiaries

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- George E. Marilian
- Kevin J. Richter
- Kevin J. Stine
- Mark J. Stegman
- Mark S. Schwer
- Gregory W. Coffey
- William J. Niehoff
- Kelli E. Madigan
- Bradley W. Small
- Mary E. Lapoint
- Deanna L. Litzburg
- Philip D. Speicher
- Laura E. Schnick
- Sandra J. Tatsian

Associates
- Beth K. Flowers
- Natalie T. Lorenz
- Rebecca K. Wohltman
- Joseph R. Harvath

Of Counsel
- Charles M. Lock
Sandberg Phoenix attorneys are experienced in legal matters impacting businesses throughout Madison County. From entity formation and corporate structuring to employment law and litigation, corporate transactions and government relations, one of our more than 100 attorneys can help you.

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SIUE Club Sports Donates to Anderson Hospital

Students of the Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) Club Sports organization recently presented Anderson Hospital with a donation to benefit the Friends of Hope Breast Center. They chose to donate their profits from the Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirt sale as a philanthropic effort from the organization to help Anderson Hospital increase awareness.

The SIUE Club Sports program oversees 35 student led clubs, comprised of student organizations that provide programs for instruction, recreation or competition in a specific sport or recreational activity.

Juneau Associates Receives Concrete Award

Professional engineering, land surveying and construction management company, Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C., has received the Quality Concrete Award from the Concrete Council and American Steel Fabrication for its recent work on the Timberlake Manor Parkway in Chesterfield, MO.

This award recognizes member firms and others who have demonstrated outstanding work related to concrete structures in the St. Louis area. The award was given to Juneau Associates for their efforts to quickly design and prepare plans and specifications to safely replace a 3-span bridge near the Townes Thousand Oak Subdivision without closure. The structure on Timberlake Manor Parkway and the I-64 frontage road is the only access road into the Townes Thousand Oaks Subdivision, making it imperative that the work was done quickly and without having to close the bridge.

Juneau Associates provides professional engineering, land surveying and construction engineering services for public and private clients throughout Illinois and Missouri. The firm is a proud Certified Veteran Owned Business in the State of Illinois. Go to www.jaipc.com to learn more.
New Sports Park Named Plummer Family Park

Right on the heels of the groundbreaking for the City of Edwardsville’s new Spray & Play Park, the Edwardsville City Council approved the naming of a new sports park to be developed in Edwardsville – Plummer Family Park.

The sports park is one of three parks that the City of Edwardsville is raising funds to develop as part of its A Better Place to Play campaign. The state-of-the-art sports park will include multiple soccer, baseball and softball fields, an all-accessible field for those with special needs, pickleball courts, tennis courts, concessions and restrooms. The next steps in the development are to form a focus group to gather community needs for the specified sports listed.

Edwardsville Mayor Hal Patton is excited about the new Sports Park. “We are so grateful to the Plummer family for stepping up and helping make the sports park a reality for Edwardsville. We have so many select ball teams and tennis groups in need of recreational space so this will be a big boost to our area.”

The two other parks include the Spray & Play Park and an Ice Hockey Rink/Teen Center. Officials broke ground recently on the Spray & Play Park, which is expected to open Memorial Day 2016. The Spray & Play Park will also include a walking/fitness track for all ages, shade structures, pavilions and restrooms/changing stations. The Ice Hockey Rink/Teen Center will offer an indoor walking track, concessions, and a lounge area for home athletes and visiting teams to enjoy while using the facility. The Ice Rink/Teen Center, when funded, will be located off of Governor’s Parkway on EDUSD #7 grounds.

Mayor Patton indicated that grant funding and sponsorships will make up a large percentage of the funds used to build the area parks, however area residents are being encouraged to make contributions to the projects by donating through the campaign website, either with lump sum donations or a pledge option. The campaign website is www.betterplacetoplay.com.

For more information on major gifts, please contact Edwardsville Community Foundation at 855.464.3223 or make a donation online at www.edwardsvillecommunityfoundation.org. Donations may be mailed to Edwardsville Community Foundation to P.O. Box 102, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Please make a notation on your check that the funds are to be applied to the “A Better Place to Play” campaign. If you wish to support a specific parks project, please also note the designated park with your donation.

ECF Honors Community Leaders & Organizations

Edwardsville Community Foundation (ECF) recently held its First Annual Legacy Awards. The Legacy Awards event honored those who have impacted the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community through extraordinary contributions in giving and philanthropy. Awards presented included the Philanthropic Business of the Year and Philanthropist of the Year. In addition, three local nonprofits were recognized for their extraordinary work in the community.

The prestigious Philanthropist of the Year Legacy Award, which honors a lifetime philanthropist, was presented to Charles Al Wentz. Wentz is personally responsible for helping hundreds of youth receive college or vocational education. “The Legacy Awards was an opportunity for the Edwardsville Community Foundation and our community partners to recognize those individuals and organizations that give so much to make our local communities better,” stated Patty Navin, Chairman of the ECF. “We are honored to have presented Al Wentz with the first annual Philanthropist of the Year Legacy Award and look forward to honoring other influential individuals in the future.”

The Philanthropic Business of the Year award was presented to TheBANK of Edwardsville. TheBANK of Edwardsville is a great supporter of local civic, charitable and education programs. TheBANK’s philanthropic mission has been ingrained in their culture since Bob Wetzel, their longest serving president, was hired. All subsequent presidents, including current president Kevin Powers, have embodied this same spirit and encourage giving back as part of TheBANK’s philosophy.

The night continued with the recognition of three special nonprofit organizations and their volunteers. Each of these groups, created by local citizens, work every day to address a cause and find a solution. The organizations recognized include Twigs, founded in 2011 in Granite City by Lisa Guilliams; Edwardsville Neighbors in Need, founded in 2010 by Chad and Kathie Opel; and Allison’s Hope, founded by the Cassens family in 2004 in honor of Allison Cassens, whose final wish was to raise money for cancer research.

Edwardsville Community Foundation was established as an organization through which donors could directly impact the quality of life in local communities. Today, ECF receives, manages and distributes tax-deductible charitable contributions for the benefit of the residents living in the local communities as defined by the EDUSD #7. Since its inception in 1997, The Edwardsville Community Foundation has distributed more than $5.4 million to charitable causes, scholarships and grants.
In early December, the U.S. Congress passed some very necessary legislation. This legislation established five years of transportation investment with federal dollars while reauthorizing the Export-Import (Ex-Im) bank. In both of these instances, efforts by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and our members have proven successful.

Earlier this year we joined more than 40 state business associations from across the country by signing a joint letter to Congress stressing the need of a strong, multi-year surface transportation authorization. In Illinois, allies including the Transportation for Illinois Coalition worked to educate our congressional delegation and their constituents about the importance of a federal authorization.

Last spring, Ingredion, Inc., an Illinois food ingredient company, testified before a U.S. Senate committee on how important a strong transportation network is for it to succeed. Language included in this legislation will help Illinois invest in the transportation networks that drive our economy, including strong freight provisions that can help us complete the CREATE Program and invest in transit across the state. Companies such as Ingredion that rely on a sound transportation network now have some stability to plan for the future instead of worrying about short term authorizations and delays in improvements.

The legislation also reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank, an 81-year old entity that allows financing for American companies to compete with foreign competitors in primarily emerging markets.

The Chamber’s International Business Council (IBC) hosted several events throughout the year showcasing Illinois Chamber members such as W.S. Darley & Co., which builds firetrucks, that have grown because of the Ex-Im Bank. While the opposition to reauthorization the Ex-Im Bank was driven by focusing on the large companies that use it, 118 of the 149 businesses that benefit from the Bank here in Illinois are small businesses.

An op-ed jointly written by Paul Darley, the company CEO, and the IBC executive director, published in Crain’s Chicago Business in September, highlighted that without this authorization, Illinois companies are at a distinct disadvantage to any of the 78 foreign versions of the Ex-Im Bank across the world. With the renewed authorization, Illinois companies can once again compete on a level playing field in international markets.

Members of Illinois’ congressional delegation also need to be recognized for their efforts. The delegation overwhelmingly supported the final legislation and we cannot thank them enough. Sen. Dick Durbin, and Reps. Dan Lipinski and Darin LaHood all served on the final committee that negotiated passage of this legislation and are to be commended for their work.

The inclusion of Ex-Im would not have been possible without the leadership of Sen. Mark Kirk, and Reps. Adam Kinzinger and Bob Dold. Sen. Kirk was instrumental in moving language in the Senate while Reps. Kinzinger and Dold were early signatories to a discharge petition that allowed Ex-Im legislation to be considered on the House floor.

These are important victories but more needs to be done. There are trade agreements coming before Congress that need to be passed to open even more markets to Illinois businesses. While the federal transportation authorization does a lot, Illinois will need to step up with a state capital bill to ensure we maximize investment.

For now, Illinois businesses can rest easy knowing that their efforts and work with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce have resulted in two very hard-fought victories.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
One of the Top in the Nation. Once Again.

By focusing on quality care for patients and doing what’s right, we have received national recognition — for the fourth year in a row. Gateway Regional Medical Center is recognized by The Joint Commission as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® for achieving excellence in performance on its accountability measures during 2014 for Heart Attack, Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Surgical Care and Immunizations. Gateway Regional Medical Center is one of just 117 hospitals in the country — and the only one in Illinois — to have achieved this accomplishment for FIVE consecutive years.

So what does this recognition in using evidence-based care mean for you? Peace of mind in knowing that our local care is among the top in the nation.

Find out more at GatewayRegional.net.

GATEWAY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER