



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamber announces new Professionals of Color program

Moorhead, Minn. (March 13, 2019) – The Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce announces the launch of a new program. Professionals of Color (POC) now offers development and networking opportunities to the range of diverse professionals in the region.

As an advocate of the regional business community, The Chamber recognizes that addressing the evolving demographic of our metro is fundamental to the growth and sustainability of its members. Professionals of Color is for all members of the business community, with a specific effort to serve the diverse populations that are underrepresented in current programming.

Professionals of Color will have four focus areas while highlighting diverse employee populations. Networking and social events will allow members to connect and interact. Professional development opportunities will connect them to tools and resources to apply in their daily lives. Educational programming will help members learn about relevant issues. Service offerings will allow them to give back to our community as well.

While everyone is welcome to join POC, all members of POC must also be members of The Chamber. Similar to The Chamber's Young Professionals Network, Professionals of Color will rotate where meetings take place and will showcase different Chamber members at each event. The group will meet at least once a quarter with a different focus area each meeting.

Thomas Jefferson of State Farm Insurance is serving as the inaugural chair. A committee has also been assembled to help guide and plan programming.

"In this ever-evolving and growing region we call home, we embrace the changing demographics of the metro with a focus on diversity and inclusion," said Chamber president and CEO Craig Whitney. "This program fills a much-needed niche of these efforts in our community, particularly with the workforce challenges that we face. We believe that an environment that engages individuals reflective of the full spectrum of our region is key to the success of business and Fargo Moorhead West Fargo as a whole.

A successful launch event was held the last week in February, where approximately 100 individuals heard from local leadership and committee members more about the program and began connecting with each other. The next networking event is scheduled for March 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Front Street Taproom. A program schedule will be posted to The Chamber's website, and a monthly email with details will be sent to members. Professionals of Color is now also on Facebook and Twitter.

The program's presenting sponsor is Microsoft. Bremer Bank is a supporting sponsor.



About The Chamber

The Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce is a bi-state, regional federation of more than 2,100 private, public and non-profit member firms representing more than 109,000 people. The largest local chamber in North Dakota and Minnesota, The Chamber advocates for a strong metropolitan community and supports the interests of its members, which are located in Cass and Clay Counties and beyond.

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