

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), in partnership with the Minnesota Counties Foundation (MCF), will host our first Workplace Symposium in October 2018 at the MinnWest Technology campus in Willmar -- **where innovation meets collaboration.**

This symposium will focus on *leading, engaging, attracting and retaining employees* in local government workplace. We will welcome elected officials, regional leaders, administrators, HR directors, department heads, front-line staff, and collaborative partners from across Minnesota – and hope that you will join us!



## Thursday, October 18

- 8:30-9:30am Registration & Breakfast  
*Willmar Convention Center, 240 23rd Street SE, Willmar, MN 56201*
- 9:00am Welcome to Willmar  
*Dave Baker, MN State Representative*
- 9:30am Please be at the Willmar Conference Center Registration Table**  
**9:45am Buses depart for MinnWest Tech Campus – Arranged by the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce**
- 10:00am Arrival at MinnWest Tech Auditorium  
Welcome & Campus History  
*Joanna Schrupp, Business Development Officer for MinnWest Tech*
- 10:45am Morning Keynote: Attract, Retain, Engage, & Lead the Next Generation  
*Ryan "Buck" Thielen, Director of Customer Support at [Procore](#)*  
*Tyler Gehring, Director of [Kandiyohi CEO](#) High School Program*
- 11:45am Lunch with Colleagues & KCEO students
- 12:30pm MinnWest Tech Tours: *Procore, WorkUP, Nova-Tech Engineering, Epitopix, and more!*
- 2:45pm TED-talk style Presentations from Local Innovators
- Jay Halliday, President of [neXT – Developing Networks. Advancing Careers.](#)  
*neXT is a local organization formed to attract and retain young talent in the community, while developing the next generation of leaders.*
- Betsy Bonnema, Owner of [Redstar](#) and [WorkUP](#)  
*The Redstar team is the anchor tenant and founder of WorkUP. It is a one-of-a-kind shared office and meeting space, and serves as a hub for a wide variety of freelancers, consultants, entrepreneurs, and businesses.*

Jessica Beyer, Business Development Specialist at [First Children's Finance](#)  
*First Children's Finance helps children, families and communities thrive by increasing the availability, affordability, and quality of early care and education.*

**3:45pm**                    **Buses depart for Willmar Conference Center** – Arranged by the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

*Check-in time for Best Western Plus at the Willmar Conference Center*

5:00pm                    Reception and Dinner in Ballroom  
Local turkey dinner with seasonal fixings & dessert

6:00-6:30pm            Evening Keynote  
*Rick Trontvet, Vice President, Administration at [Digi-Key Electronics](#)*

6:45pm                    Evening on your Own: Green Mill or Ruff's Wings & Sports Bar

## *Friday, October 19*

7:30am                    Continental Breakfast & Colleague Conversations  
*Willmar Convention Center, 240 23rd Street SE, Willmar, MN 56201*

8:00am                    Child Care Panel & Regional Partner Discussions  
*Moderator: Anna Gruber, [Sourcewell](#)  
Presenters: Jessica Beyer, [First Children's Finance](#); Missy Okeson, [NW MN Foundation](#);  
Maureen Hams, [Tri-Valley Opportunity Council](#); Brianna Mumme, [Redwood County](#)*

10:00am                    NACo Workshop: Building a Culture of Employee Engagement in Government  
*Bob Lavigna, Director of the [Institute for Public Sector Employee Engagement](#)*

These are tough times. Across the nation, heated budget battles and talk about the size, function, scope, and effectiveness of government have generated criticism not just of the public sector, but also of the public servants who deliver government services. As a result, local governments are under pressure to maintain and improve performance, while also doing more with less.

This workshop will explore one proven response: Employee engagement. After all, the primary resource we have in local government is talent. If our people are engaged and perform well, government will also perform well.

12:00pm                    Closing & Thanks