



Thursday, October 18

- 8:30-9:30am** **Registration & Breakfast**
Willmar Conference Center, 240 23rd Street SE, Willmar, MN 56201
- 9:00am** **Welcome to Willmar, Dave Baker, MN State Representative**
- 9:45am** **Buses depart for MinnWest Technology Campus Auditorium**
Arranged by the Willmar Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 10:00am** **Welcome & History of MinnWest Technology Campus**
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 Gehrking, Director of [Kandiyohi CEO](#) High School Program*
- 11:45am** **Lunch with Colleagues & KCEO Students**
- 12:30pm** **MinnWest Technology Campus Tours**
Procore, MCROC, Mr. B's, 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 Manager 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**
Lodging Check-in at the Willmar Conference Center
- 5:00pm** **Reception and Dinner**
Willmar Conference Center Ballroom
- 6:00-6:45pm** **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 Conference Center, 240 23rd Street SE, Willmar, MN 56201
- 8:00am** **Child Care Panel: Regional Models & Local Strategies that Work**
Moderator: Anna Gruber, Manager of City and County Solutions, [Sourcewell](#)
Panelists:
Jessica Beyer, Business Development Manager, [First Children's Finance](#)
Maureen Hams, Community Services Director, [Tri-Valley Opportunity Council](#)
Briana Mumme, Economic Development Coordinator, [Redwood County](#)
Missy Okeson, Program Officer – Community Impact, [NW MN Foundation](#)

Topics:

- Child Care business types and community options;
- Impacts of Child Care shortages on the local workforce;
- Models of "right-sized" Child Care solutions for Minnesota communities;
- Tools for families to find quality Child Care;
- Professional development options for Child Care providers; and,
- Resources for government leaders to support Child Care decisions.

- 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**