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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MICHIGAN WEST COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDED WITH 5-STAR ACCREDITATION FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Holland, Michigan (November 21, 2019) - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has awarded the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce with the Five-Star Accredited designation, the highest such designation in the Chamber industry. "Our team is passionate about being a catalyst, convener and champion for our community. We work very hard to keep our members' needs front and center, which drives us to stay ahead of the curve in providing exceptional service and innovative programming and communications. The U.S. Chamber Accreditation designation affirms that we are doing great things for the good of our members and our community," said Jane Clark, President of the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Accreditation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the only program of its kind that defines excellence in chamber planning and recognizes chambers for outstanding contributions toward positive change in their communities. The purpose of the U.S. Chamber's Accreditation Program is to facilitate continuing excellence in the chamber industry and to foster a pro-business environment across America.

Accreditation is the only national program that recognizes chambers for their effective organizational procedures and community involvement. In order to receive Accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in their operations and programs, including areas of governance, government affairs, and technology. This extensive self-review can take 6-9 months to complete.

"Only 217 chambers carry this distinction out of approximately 7,000 chambers in the United States. And only 127, less than 1 percent of these chambers are accredited at the highest 5-Star level," added Clark. "We achieved a perfect score in five of the nine sections: governance, program development, technology, communications, and facilities. This designation is the West Coast Chamber's second time to be recognized and we are very proud of this accomplishment."

CATALYST CONVENER CHAMPION



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Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars, or 5-Stars. State chambers are recognized as either Accredited State Chamber or Accredited State Chamber with Distinction. The final determination is made by the Accrediting Board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members.

About the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce:

The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce serves over 1,200 member businesses and their 65,000 employees the Holland and Zeeland areas. As a Catalyst, Convener and Champion, the Chamber connects people and businesses to the resources they need to grow and succeed and uses their platform as the voice of the business community to help members advocate about issues that impact their growth and sustainability. One of only one percent of Chambers nationally with a Five-Star Accreditation, the West Coast Chamber was named the Michigan Outstanding Chamber of the Year by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals, receiving the highest score ever awarded. Learn more by visiting www.westcoastchamber.org.

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