



**69,391**

number of  
Chamber  
member  
employees

**233,520**

Business  
connections  
made at  
Chamber  
networking  
events in  
FY19



**100**

students  
participated  
in the  
healthcare  
careers  
program

**33**

Businesses  
celebrated  
openings  
with ribbon  
cuttings

### TALENT DEVELOPMENT

- Health Care Careers program had **100 student participants** from five different high schools.
- Launched, in partnership with many community organizations, the iRead • iCount program to help improve the reading and math scores of elementary students. In the spring, the pilot program for iRead helped **112 kindergartners improve their letter recognition**.
- Built the leadership skills of **24 emerging business leaders** in LEAD Champaign County.

“The presenter provided complex HR topics in a manner that was easy to understand and easy to apply to my business. I appreciate the relevant information provided.”

### BUILDING BUSINESS

- Provided counseling to **47 new entrepreneurs** with plans to start and grow their businesses in Champaign County through the Business Advisors Council.
- **4 women-owned businesses** have opened with assistance from the Business Advisors Council.

### PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

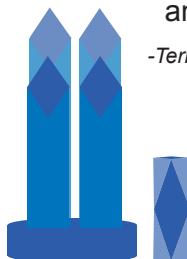
- Hosted former **Governor Bruce Rauner to tour three Chamber member’s businesses** in quick response to his negative comments about Champaign County. Resulted in positive press for the community.
- Advocated, organized and testified for the **sale of the Champaign County Nursing Home** that was sold leading to lower property taxes.
- Two PAC business-friendly endorsed candidates were elected to office in November 2018.
- Seven business-friendly PAC endorsed candidates were elected to office in April 2019.
- Helped defeat a bill that would make Champaign County its own Judicial Circuit.

### MAKING BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

- Over **1,500 connections** made at Connect@ Lunch
- **233,520 business connections** made at Chamber networking events in FY19.

“Everyone was nice and went out of their way to help me. I would highly recommend the Chamber to anybody who is thinking of starting a business. Things are going so well I will be hiring an employee soon.”

-Teri Quednau, Quednau Quality Hearing



**Best in Show - Communications Excellence for 2018 Annual Meeting from Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)**

**Grand Award - Communications Excellence for 2019 Annual Meeting from Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)**

### OWNERSHIP

### PARTNERSHIP

### ENGAGEMENT

### ALIGNMENT

### MEMBER RESOURCES

- **Celebrated 33 businesses** with ribbon cuttings.
- Members participating in the energy co-op saved over **\$327,000** on their electricity and gas bills.
- Launched our new website with more user-friendly capabilities.