

DICKINSON AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE



Fall Update 2025

Each September, we take the opportunity to share the progress made by our task force groups and initiatives and look forward to the rest of the year. We have made many strides so far this year, and the positive momentum keeps us focused now and for the remainder of 2025 on improving the quality of life and growing our local economy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tony Edlebeck, Chair

Retired - City of Kingsford

Benjamin Wood, Vice Chair

Range Bank

Russ Kassin, Secretary/Treasurer

First National Bank & Trust

David Holmes

David Holmes Consulting LLC

Lee Lofstrom

Industrial Development Corporation

DIRECTORS

Nikki Bowers,

Systems Control, a Hubbell brand

Michelle Copley

CCI Systems, Inc.

Jon Coyne

BOSS Snowplow

Ryan Danielson

Danielson Insurance Agency

Christopher Germain

Lake Superior Community Partnership

Ryan Gordon

Stephens Real Estate

Dr. Nerita Hughes

Bay College

Paul Meneghini

Enbridge

Nate Raiche

MJ Electric

Trenton Rankin

Marshfield Medical Center-Dickinson

Dr. Phil Shealey

VA Medical Center

Joe Stephens

Dickinson County

Steve Verrette

Champion, Inc.



HIGHLIGHTS

The Alliance Task Force groups have been very active, hosting meaningful events for Dickinson Area businesses, planning and strategizing housing development, and continuing to work on the talent pipeline in collaboration with local schools and industry. We have continued to build upon our relationships with partners throughout the Upper Peninsula and the State of Michigan. This year, we also worked on building relationships with partners in Florence and Niagara, and have extended our advocacy efforts in the State of Wisconsin.

We couldn't do this work without our investors and volunteers. We are grateful for the expertise and value you bring to our organization, task force groups, and initiatives. We appreciate your time and talent.

Mindy Meyers

Executive Director

mindy.meyers@daeda.org

(920) 379-6611

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

January – August 2025

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

7	Site Location
6	Biz Plan
3	Financing
10	Marketing Assistance
89	Information Shared/Consult
55	Advocacy
64	Retention
5	Talent
1	Data and Research

TOTAL MEETINGS: 175

53	Partner Meeting
54	Project Meeting
60	Retention/Expansion
1	Startup
7	Attraction

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS: 111

430 Estimated Combined Volunteer Hours through August



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & ADVOCACY

Advocating for businesses and our community.

Joe Stevens, Chair

Dave Brisson, Dale Cook, Mark Pontti, Trenton Rankin

- Hosted Ski Jumps Legislative Reception in February with 60 attendees.
- Co-hosted *Preparing for Changes to Paid Sick Leave, Wage Laws, and Exempt Salary Threshold Roundtable Discussion* with Small Business Retention and Growth.
- Traveled to Lansing for Spring visits with legislative and department leaders.
- Hosting tours with elected officials at Loadmaster and Sturgeon Falls Hydro Dam.
- Building relationships with local, state, and federal elected officials.
- Expanding relationships with elected officials in Wisconsin.

SMALL BUSINESS RETENTION & GROWTH

Promoting and acknowledging the value of businesses in our community.

Benjamin Wood, Chair

Ryan Danielson, Ann Kresl, Suzanne Larson, Nicole Lutz, Kevin Hanson, Jen Raiche

- Co-hosted *Preparing for Changes to Paid Sick Leave, Wage Laws, and Exempt Salary Threshold Roundtable Discussion* with Government Relations.
- Hosted a small business luncheon with presentations on *How to Leverage AI* and *Fraud Prevention*.
- Hosting a small business luncheon with a presentation on *Hiring and Retention* with Jenna Smith from Manpower and Nicole Potvin from the SBDC.
- Working with the Central UP Small Business Support Hub to encourage grant applications.
- 8 Years of Loyal 2 Local.

TALENT & EDUCATION

Recruit, retain, and grow the talent needed to support our employers' workforce needs.

Michelle Copley, Chair

Justin Cowen, Carmen Frank, Tanya Hiltonen, David Holmes, Sereena Johnson, Lisa Villringer, Joe Tinti, Shelly Petrusch, David Lindbeck, Aaron Yahnke, Katie Roell, Jerry Sardina, Sara Pericolosi, Kellie Sexton, Shannon Williams, Megan Elsey, Megan Barglind-Rodman, Jason Sullivan, Amy Gibbs, Susan Moll, Brandon Jerue, Eric Printz, Nate Burkland

- Released the CTE Magazine, highlighting career paths and educational options for students to gain the skills and knowledge to be successful right out of high school.
- Recognized area seniors pursuing a skilled trades career through the CTE Grad Recognition Program.
- Preparing for Manufacturing Day on October 3 at Bay College Iron Mountain Campus for 300 ninth-grade students to experience the hands-on skills needed by our local manufacturers.
- Planning Healthcare Career Day on February 6 for area tenth-grade students to experience hands-on healthcare careers needed by our local healthcare employers.
- Planning hiring projection survey.
- Gathering student exit data from all local schools.
- Creating an industry directory for educators.



INFRASTRUCTURE & HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Improving access to infrastructure data and encouraging new development opportunities.

Tony Edlebeck, Chair

Brian Bousley, Luke Carey, Dale Cook, Ryan Gordon, Jim Harris, Gary Hoaglund, Kyle Mulka, Steve Mulka, Ryan Soucy, Jordan Stanchina, Mike Stelmaszek, Dan Stoltman, Joe Stevens, Michelle Ball

- Advocacy for new housing development tools:
 - MI Neighborhood Program, MEDC Developer Tools, Tax Increment Financing, Build U.P. fund through InvestUP, MSHDA Housing TIF.
- Collaborating on housing projects alongside housing specialist Antonio Adan of the Marquette County Land Bank Authority.
- Collaborating on Brownfield projects with Anne Giroux, Build UP Director of Development and Investment Services with Invest UP.
- Updating available properties with municipal and township assessors for site readiness.
- Applied for a Rural Readiness Grant for a Dickinson County Housing Market Assessment.
- Brownfield Authority Projects.
- Landbank Projects.
- Between January and June, 96 building permits were pulled, resulting in 14 new homes.
- GIS System Aerial Mapping updated to 6-inch pixel quality for Iron Mountain, Kingsford, Norway, and Breitung Township.
- Kingsford continues a multi-year water main and water service line replacement project.
- Iron Mountain is continuing to identify water services containing lead components and replacing those that contain lead.
 - Iron Mountain will begin a major water and sanitary sewer replacement project starting in 2026.
- Breitung Township is undertaking a project to upgrade the water system in East Kingsford.
- Norway is in the process of identifying any remaining water services that contain lead components and require replacement.
- The Dickinson Trail Network, along with the City of Iron Mountain, City of Norway, and Pine Mountain, continues to add and maintain multi-use trails.
- The Dickinson County Ford Airport continues to expand with new hangars being constructed, both private and county-owned.
 - The county has relocated some of its offices to this area, and new aerial-related services businesses are being added. The County continues to evaluate additional developments of the airport properties.
- The County Road Commission is continuing to work with townships on improving various county and township roads throughout the County.
- The City of Iron Mountain and the Michigan Department of Transportation are continuing discussions to improve traffic control in the area surrounding Home Depot, Culver's, Carlo's, and Aldi on US-2.



MARKETING, COMMUNICATION, & BRANDING

Communicating the benefits of living, working, and investing in the Dickinson Area.

MMH and Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP)

- Refreshed and streamlined the visual brand identity and reviewed the brand messaging of The Alliance to ensure LSCP and MMH are working to promote a cohesive brand.
- Redesigning daeda.org, the new website that will be complementary to belongdickinson.org.
 - With a B2B focus, it will provide resources for investors, prospective investors, site consultants, developers, and elected officials.
- Creating an electronic press kit so journalists have access to brand-approved messaging and images when working on stories.
- Creating promotional materials for Manufacturing Day and the Small Business Retention and Growth Task Force HR Luncheon.
- Belong Dickinson
 - Released in January with stories featuring Systems Control, a Hubbell Brand, Marshfield Medical Center – Dickinson, and Champion Inc.
 - launched belongdickinson.org, social channels, and podcast
 - Over the summer, shared information about the cities in Dickinson County and things to do in the summer.
 - Working with Trident Maritime, The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Loadmaster, and Breitung Township Schools on their stories.
 - Targeting an October launch of the Trident story to kick off season 2.

BELONG DICKINSON

The new living and working initiative of The Alliance.

Quality of life increases when individuals find community where they are united with others through shared interests. This initiative tells the story of living and working through the eyes of an employee by exploring employment, community involvement, and the relationships resulting from feeling a sense of belonging when living and working in the Dickinson area.

MMH - Elsa Pontbriand and Seth Anderson

How to participate

Belong Dickinson is an investor-sponsored multi-media talent recruitment and retention initiative. It is open to all investors for an additional fee. Visit mountainmedia.house/belong for more information about the program, including what you get and the cost.