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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce Named Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives**

**Holland, MI** – The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce that it has been named Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). This prestigious honor was presented to the Chamber during the ACCE Annual Convention's Awards Show, held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 23, 2025.

The Chamber of the Year Award recognizes excellence in operations, member services, and community leadership. The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce stood out among its peers for its innovative programs, strategic initiatives, and significant contributions to the business community throughout the West Michigan region.

This national recognition comes at a time of tremendous momentum and growth for the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce. Over the past year, the Chamber has launched several impactful initiatives that reflect its commitment to supporting business growth and creating tidal waves of positive impact. Community Impact Day expanded beyond the lakeshore, becoming a statewide movement that mobilized thousands of volunteers to support nonprofits and municipalities across Michigan. The Chamber also launched the Chamber Career Center, helping to bridge the gap between business and education by providing students and young adults with access to experiential learning and connection with local businesses. These efforts, highlighted in the Chamber of the Year application, showcase the Chamber's dedication to meeting the needs of its members and building a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

"The Chamber Career Center and Community Impact Day are both impactful and trailblazing initiatives. These programs have become a force for good, setting the tone for a community that values action, compassion, and awareness," said Paul Brinks, Board Chair of the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce and President and CEO of Koops Automation Systems. "The Chamber leads with purpose and this award is a powerful affirmation of that."

To achieve this recognition, the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce underwent a rigorous multi-stage process. First, the organization had to qualify by meeting thresholds in key performance areas in ACCE's Annual Chamber Operations Survey. These areas included Chamber Structure, Financials, and Membership. Additionally, the Chamber submitted a comprehensive



written application addressing all aspects of its organizational operations and programmatic work. The process culminated in an interview before a panel of experienced Chamber professionals.

"We are incredibly honored to be named Chamber of the Year," said Jodi Owczarski, President & CEO of the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce. "This award is a powerful reflection of our remarkable team, our dedicated members, and the vibrant spirit of our community. We're proud. We're grateful. And we're just getting started."

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**About the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce**

The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce serves over 1,200 member businesses and their 80,000 employees in the Holland and Zeeland areas. As a Catalyst, Convener, and Champion, the Chamber connects member businesses to the resources they need to be successful. The Chamber has been recognized with the U.S. Chamber's prestigious Five Star Accreditation. Less than 1% of chambers in the country receive this distinction. Learn more by visiting [www.westcoastchamber.org](http://www.westcoastchamber.org).