



The Business of a Thriving Community. **2018-19 Business Plan**

The Gilbert Chamber (a 501c6 entity) and the Gilbert Chamber Foundation (a 501c3 entity) are committed to serving our members and community as the **CATALYST** for business growth; the **CONVENER** for leaders and influencers; and the **CHAMPION** for a stronger Gilbert.

CHAMBER PROGRAMS

ADVOCACY is our BUSINESS. We serve our members as a **convener** of businesses with elected officials and management teams at the Town of Gilbert, Maricopa County, education communities, State of Arizona, and in Washington DC.

- *Our **Public Policy committee** hosts the Good Government Series which brings elected officials together with our members. Elected officials invited this year include the Town of Gilbert, Gilbert Public Schools, Higley Unified School District, District 12, District 17, Maricopa County Supervisors, and Congressional delegates. In addition to these interactive sessions, the Public Policy committee hosts a monthly Speakers' Series for members. The committee continues its watchdog role of identifying business issues such as taxation, regulation, ordinances, and legislation that may impact our members. We defend business values and the ability to manage their workforce without undue burden and regulations.*
- *Election year brings the Chamber's **Primary and General Election Voting Guide** to ensure pro-business candidates and issues are elected/passed.*
- *As a founding member of the **East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance (EVCCA)**, the Gilbert Chamber identifies and **CHAMPIONS** business-friendly initiatives and priorities at the State legislature and Governor's office.*
- *As a **CONVENER** for leaders and influencers, the Chamber brings together business, education, and government to solve challenges.*

CATALYST for business growth

Business growth occurs through various opportunities at the Chamber to enhance informal mentorships, to provide exposure and recognition of excellence, meaningful business connections, business resources and savings that result in bottom line dollars for our members.

- *Six **Referral Teams** meet weekly to build their referral network and closed business.*
- *A **Procurement Expo** will connect small businesses with larger companies and government entities to learn how to become a successful vendor.*
- ***Leadercast Women's** day-long training is scheduled for October and will include booths and professional development for women.*

- The new **Business Owners Growth Group** will provide a mastermind environment to include mentoring and success tips for growing small businesses.
- The EVCCA is hosting a **Career Conference** that will feature businesses hiring, credentialing and workplace skills, along with a Business to Business reception.
- Our **Small Business Council** hosts the **GEM Talk** series bringing successful, local entrepreneurs together for inspirational and interactive discussions. The SBC also contributes **business blogs** providing valuable insights into business trends, tips and foundational decision-points for all-sized business owners.
- **SCORE and SBDC** provide free business counseling through the Chamber.
- Our **Ambassadors** welcome and mentor new members, introduce prospective members and help engage others. Informal business connections are shared through the Chamber Chats, Chamber Connections, and Chamber Accelerator series.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

As **CHAMPION** for a strong Gilbert, the Chamber Foundation **CONVENES** leaders and influencers to address community-benefit issues.

- **Partners In Progress** will continue its **quarterly roundtables** to identify specific industry and business challenges; bringing partners working together to provide guidance, assistance, and solutions. An annual **Business Walks** survey more than 100 businesses in one day.
- An emphasis on **Workforce Readiness** continues to serve as the basis for a unique model bringing businesses, government, and education partners to the table to prepare a qualified workforce for the future. **Tours for Teachers Class 4** will go behind-the-scenes with business owners and front-line supervisors to learn key skills employees need to be successful; taking that information directly into the classroom. Students from ASU and local high schools participate in the **Career Shadowing/ Mentoring** program with CEOs for 20-hours of one-on-one experience.
- The **Manufacturers Council** is developing an apprenticeship model to assist all businesses; planning for Manufacturing Month activities to include introducing students to manufacturing careers, opportunities to offer a Manufacturing 101 type class to coincide with internships.
- Accountability to the community is an important piece of Partners In Progress with an annual **Business and Education Summit** is held to report out results and gather feedback for future programs and improving upon current programs.

As a **CONVENER** and **CHAMPION**, the Foundation seeks out and raises up the next generation of local leadership as well as fosters a culture of collaboration in our community.

- **Gilbert Leadership** hosts Class 27 featuring developing leadership skills, interactive issue days highlighting what makes the community work, planning an annual community project, and a commitment to make a difference after graduation.
- **Leadercast** is a day-long simulcast event featuring world renown speakers on the topic of leadership and personal development.

- *The Foundation provides additional inclusive opportunities to become engaged in community service through its annual **Food Drive**, **IRunForGood**, **Back to School Drive** to benefit homeless students, and our annual **Adopt-A-Senior** program that provides gifts and breakfast to low income seniors at Christmas. In addition, the Chamber provides introductions and business connections with non-profit organizations encouraging members and others to get involved.*

Together, we can make a stronger Gilbert – a great place to own a business, raise a family, and spend time giving back to our community. The Chamber and Foundation’s efforts are funded through generous members and community donors. Thank you for your continued support!