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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Fox Cities Chamber Celebrated its 2018 Work at Annual Report to the Community**  
*Priorities in 2019 will focus on further collaboration and new services for stakeholders*

**APPLETON, Wis. (January 17, 2019)** – The Fox Cities Chamber celebrated its 2018 work and recognized several partners at its annual Report to the Community on Thursday, January 17 with over 300 business and community leaders in attendance.

The program was opened with a welcome by Becky Bartoszek, President/CEO of the Fox Cities Chamber.

“I am very proud of our team and this organization for the tremendous impact the Fox Cities Chamber and Regional Partnership are having on our community,” shared Bartoszek. “It’s been a year of growth and prosperity. In 2019 our goal is to continue to be your trusted partner and one of your best investments.”

This annual event featured stories told from Chamber stakeholders regarding the impact of Chamber programming to their business, their employees and the overall community. The program highlighted the Chamber’s Annual Report as well as key priorities of work coming in 2019.

*A few 2018 Annual Report highlights included:*

- 931 total members, 135 new members in 2018
- 70+ total events; estimated attendance of 200,000
- Celebrated 37 years of Oktoberfest; \$60,000+ awarded to 20 organizations in the Fox Cities through Oktoberfest grants during the year
- 8 total PULSE Young Professionals events with 25,000 attendees (which includes 3 Bazaar After Dark night markets)
- 39 Leadership Fox Cities graduates in Spring 2018
- 2,600+ 8<sup>th</sup> grade student attendees, 1,900+ high school student attendees and 82 participating businesses at expanded two-day Your Future LIVE Career Expo event
- 223 businesses and 25 school districts participating on Your Future Fox Cities website
- 5 Public Policy Council meetings and 3 Public Policy events covering key issues affecting local businesses in the Fox Cities
- Fox Cities Regional Partnership, the economic development division of the Chamber, provided with 145 business retention and expansion visits; completed 15 RFI requests which assisted in three expansions in the Fox Cities Region



**2018 Member & Investor Presenters included:**

The Fox Cities Chamber works to be the catalyst for business growth and prosperity, the connector for leaders and influencers and the champion for a stronger community. Featured initiatives in the presentation included Leadership Fox Cities, Octoberfest, Public Policy, Bazaar After Dark, Small Business Services and Talent & Workforce.

*These remarks were provided by:*

- Lindsey Fenlon, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fox Valley Region
- Paul Shrode, Director of Regional Operations, Fox Valley Technical College
- Robyn Gruner, Director of External Affairs, AT&T
- Chris Haese, Director of Community Development & Assessment, City of Neenah
- Paula Brusky, Founder, Aerial Dance
- Heather Schimmers, Vice President of Patient Care Services, Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital

Closing remarks were shared by Fox Cities Chamber Board of Directors Chair, Kathi Seifert, President of Katapult, LLC. Bartoszek shared final thoughts on the Chamber's future outlook in the year ahead.

For additional news and information, subscribe to our e-mail communications at [foxcitieschamber.com](http://foxcitieschamber.com) or follow the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter or Instagram.

**2018 Annual Report attached for media use.**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2018 Year in Review video.**

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**About Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce**

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce captures the energy of one of Wisconsin's most dynamic regions and transforms it into innovative programs and services for its business members. The Fox Cities Chamber serves all of the Fox Cities communities within the counties of Outagamie, Calumet and the northern portion of Winnebago. The Fox Cities Chamber plays a leadership role in regional economic development efforts in Northeastern Wisconsin. For more information, visit [www.foxcitieschamber.com](http://www.foxcitieschamber.com).