

MEMBER INSIGHTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

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BLACKWOOD CORNER

Focus. For some, focus is a practice, for others a tool, but for all, "focus determines our reality." George Lucas.

Today, I take a moment to commend the business community on your unwavering focus to provide, to advocate, to serve the Greater Sacramento Region. In the wake of uncertainty, of hardships, of possibilities, the business community has remained steadfast in designing solutions that reflect innovation and determination to define our ability to survive AND thrive.

On behalf of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, thank you for pushing the boundaries of opportunities and for elevating our collective determination to succeed. Business has and always will be our north star for what is possible for organizations and for our region. It is your focus that drives the team at the Metro Chamber to advocate, to lead, and to support ALL business.

-In partnership - Amanda Blackwood, President & CEO

WASHINGTON, D.C., HERE WE COME!

Registration for our 50th Annual Cap-to-Cap in Washington, D.C. is now open and in-person!

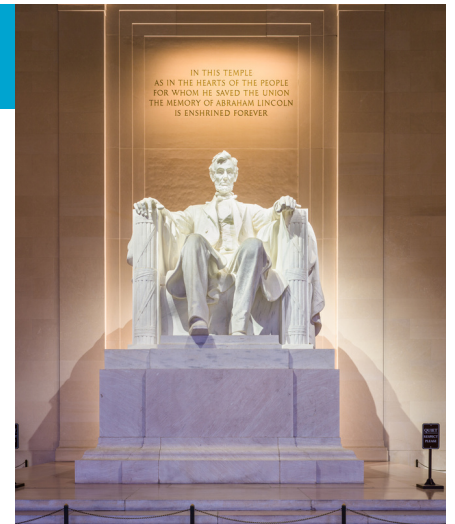
We invite all Metro Chamber members to participate in advocating, networking, and experiencing the power of the business community that defines change for business and for the Greater Sacramento Region.

The delegation will build up on the successes of our past programs that propose solutions to our federal partners advancing the economic vitality of the six-county region. To register, click [here](#).

Regional Wins from Cap-to-Cap 2021

- The Air Quality Team learned that forest management and wildfire investments to treat forests and protect our air is a priority funding area of the Build Back Better agenda.
- The Water Resources Team learned that a renewed Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has been added to the U.S. Senate's 2022 legislative calendar, meaning proposed water resources solutions are a priority for 2022.
- One week after the conclusion of Cap-to-Cap, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill was passed through both houses of Congress. This bill will invest billions of dollars into California's infrastructure, including \$25.3 billion for highways, \$9.45 billion for public transportation, \$384 million for EV charging stations and more.

Cap-to-Cap is fueled by the greatness of our region and the unique perspectives each of our delegates bring to the fabric of our economy. The proposals that are discussed at Cap-to-Cap year after year continue to define policy greatness and ensure the the long term needs of our community and our relentless drive to protect our economic health, well-being, and quality of life.



ADVOCACY IN ACTION



Augustine Agency recently joined the Metro Chamber! For more than 25 years, Augustine has been the "make it happen" agency - an energetic mix of strategists, public relations extraordinaires, social media visionaries, event planners, award-winning creatives, digital brainiacs and over-achieving account service workhorses—all driven by a shared passion to truly make a difference.

We are thrilled by their passion to drive business excellence in our region. Welcome to the family, Augustine!

FORWARD PLANNING

Inspire Giving, a program of the Metro Chamber Foundation, is an endowment fund established in 2009 administered by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Every year Inspire Giving provides a \$10,000 grant to help fund a specific project for a local nonprofit, along in-kind services, donations, and support needed for the project.

Each year, Inspire Giving members and donors collaboratively select, via a voting process, how the endowment's income will be distributed to a charitable organization within the Sacramento region. That voting process is now open! If you are an Inspire Giving member or donor, click [here](#) to help select this year's grant recipient.



CONNECTED REGION



Many parents experienced the start of the school year months ago, but for three students, the first day of school was on November 9.

Months ago, we all watched the news as our neighbors, friends, family and colleagues were trapped in Afghanistan. Although some still remain, three of our own returned home and back to school.

Last week, The [Sacramento Bee](#) helped welcome Pakiza, Raihan and Faizan as they returned to Sacramento after being trapped in Afghanistan just weeks ago. It was their first time on campus since February and two months of non-stop communication with the school principal and teacher of Ethel I. Baker Elementary School.

This joyous homecoming illustrates that our region is connected - that our region cares, that our community will always be our first priority. It is what makes our region feel like...home.

As we connect with family in the coming weeks for the holidays, remember the connection that we all share; that we all strive to represent humanity in our own ways and make our region not just a place to live, but a place to grow and come home to. This is what drives our economy to grow, for our culture to be inclusive, for business and community to work together to redefine our greatness.