



News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Wilczynski
586.945.1250
amywpr@gmail.com

Advancing Macomb To Host Fourth Annual Community Engagement Summit *Sept. 10 Event Brings Together Nonprofit, Business and Civic Leaders To Strengthen Community Engagement Across Macomb County*

Mount Clemens, Mich. (Aug. 28, 2026) – [Advancing Macomb](#), a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, will host its fourth annual Community Engagement Summit on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 8:30 a.m. at Macomb Community College's South Campus in Warren, Mich.

The half-day summit will bring together nonprofit, business, civic and community leaders for a morning of networking, collaboration and learning focused on strengthening community engagement, building partnerships and sharing ideas to create greater impact across Macomb County.

The event features:

- **Keynote address from Dr. Jeff Williams**, director of consulting services at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, who works with nonprofits, foundations and other organizations to strengthen strategies and increase impact. **Williams will highlight [recent Advancing Macomb research](#), which finds that Macomb County receives just \$36 in grant funding per resident — far less than neighboring Oakland County (\$479), Wayne County (\$202) and Washtenaw County (\$561).**
- **Lightning talks from community leaders** sharing ideas to strengthen communities and drive change. Featured speakers include AnnMarie Ottoy of the Clinton Township Accessible Playground and Dutton Farm, Melvenna Fant-Jones of WHEAT, and Kelli Kaschimer and Eric Candela of Forgotten Harvest, among others.
- **Interactive activity** offering practical community engagement strategies attendees can apply within their organizations and communities.

"Our Community Engagement Summit is about bringing people together who care about Macomb County and giving them an opportunity to learn from one another, build relationships and find new ways to work together," said Phil Gilchrist, executive director of Advancing Macomb. "We want people to leave with practical ideas, new connections and inspiration they can take back to their own organizations and communities."



General admission tickets for the event are \$65 and include a light breakfast. Seating is limited and may be reserved at advancingmacomb.com.

The Community Engagement Summit is made possible by support from presenting sponsor First State Bank. Additional sponsors include Macomb Community College, the Detroit Zoo, Advia Credit Union, Consumers Energy, SMART, OneMacomb, IFF and Oakland University.

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About Advancing Macomb

Advancing Macomb is Macomb County's conduit for resources that improve quality of life. The 501c3 organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County's visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit advancingmacomb.com.