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Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce Named 2026 National Chamber of the Year

First Oregon chamber ever to win ACCE's top national honor, recognized for uniting Lane County's business community around housing, homelessness, and economic opportunity

EUGENE, Ore. (July 23, 2026) — The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce has been named the 2026 Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), marking the first time an Oregon chamber of commerce has won the association's top national honor. The award was announced July 21 during ACCE's Annual Convention Awards Show in New Orleans, where the Eugene Chamber competed against chambers from across North America.

The national Chamber of the Year award is the most prestigious and competitive award ACCE presents each year. It recognizes chambers that have demonstrated organizational strength and made a measurable impact on their community's priorities, from childcare and housing to economic prosperity and quality of life. ACCE represents more than 1,600 chambers of commerce and related organizations across North America.

The Eugene Chamber's win centers on its role convening partners around economic prosperity and community development initiatives. Judges cited the Chamber's work convening A.C.T. Now Lane, a coalition of more than 50 partner organizations addressing housing and homelessness in Lane County through housing production, workforce training, and public education, an initiative increasingly cited by chamber and economic development professionals nationally as a model for business-led community response to the housing crisis.

They also highlighted Elevate 2028, a five-year, regional economic development initiative that has helped generate more than $5 million in private investment and is projected to support 3,800 new jobs across Lane County, as well as Voice of Business, a civic engagement effort that grew business advocacy participation by 220% this past year.

“When we look at what ACCE evaluated, it's a story about a Chamber that decided to focus on building a community where everyone can find opportunity,” said Brittany Quick-Warner, President & CEO of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. “It's what happens when the business community decides to show up for its neighbors, not just in advocacy, but in everyday action.”

The Chamber describes itself not simply as a business organization, but as a community organization, built on the belief that a thriving business community and a thriving community are the same thing.

The Eugene Chamber was previously named a Chamber of the Year finalist in 2022. This year's win follows a written application evaluated by peer chamber executives and a live interview before a panel of chamber professionals, the final stage of a multi-part process that also requires chambers to meet minimum performance thresholds in member retention, dollar retention, and financial health.

The Chamber represents more than 1,200 member businesses across Lane County and reports an 87% overall member retention rate, above the national median for chambers of its size.

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About the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization serving more than 1,200 businesses across Lane County. Through initiatives including Onward Eugene, A.C.T. Now Lane, and Elevate 2028, the Chamber works to strengthen the region's economy, expand opportunity, and connect the business community to the civic priorities that shape it. Learn more at eugenechamber.com.

About ACCE

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) is the professional society supporting the leaders of local, regional, statewide, and international chambers of commerce and related economic development organizations. Its membership includes more than 1,600 business and civic organizations worldwide.