

Fall Update

Farewell Board Members



As we begin to enter Fall, we would like to say a fond farewell to our retired board members: Celia Hadden, Ryan Bunge, and Dhiraj Raghvani. Since joining in 2014, Celia dedicated her time to nurturing future engineers, scientists, and community leaders. Ryan, who joined in 2020, helped guide the organization through dynamic times while ensuring consistent value for our membership. Dhiraj shared deep appreciation for working alongside such passionate colleagues in service to our military service members. Please join us in thanking Celia, Ryan, and Dhiraj for their years of distinguished leadership, dedication to the NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter, and lasting

contributions to our community. We wish them all the very best in their next chapters!

A Successful Symposium

On behalf of the leadership team, thank you to all attendees, guest speakers, and partners who made the 17th Annual Government Contracting Symposium an absolute hit! This year's event exceeded expectations, sparking dynamic conversations and driving the vital collaboration and innovation needed to strengthen our defense and federal sectors.



From the invaluable strategic insights on the future of federal procurement delivered by our expert speakers, to the memorable tour of historic Quarters One honoring our regional military heritage, every moment highlighted the strength of our community.

While we don't have an exact date locked in just yet, we are already excited to build on this momentum for the 18th Annual Government Contracting Symposium in 2027 so stay tuned for upcoming details!

Congrats, Future Scholars!



We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to this year's outstanding scholarship recipients and wish them the absolute best on all their future endeavors. Please review our social media channels or visit the link below for a deeper look into how these bright future leaders plan to further their educations.

Pictured: Will Cardo, Sandra Ong, Evan Waring, Kalli Barber, Chloe Bishop, & Henry Mass.

2026 Scholarship Winners

Supporting Our Community



NDIA IA-IL Proudly Sponsors Vet TalkX

On June 17, the NDIA Iowa-Illinois Chapter joined forces with UnityPoint Health – Trinity, the QC CVEB, and local sponsors to support **Vet TalkX: Why Hiring Veterans is Good for Business** at Black Hawk College. Featuring keynote speaker Dillon Behr (SFC, Ret., Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient), the afternoon focused on bridging the gap between military service and civilian careers through strategic hiring, internships, and SkillBridge pathways. We were honored to back an event highlighting the unmatched value, leadership, and expertise our regional veterans bring to Quad Cities businesses.



Honoring Our Heroes: A Special Thanks to MWR

We were invited by the office of **Family and Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)** to support this year's Armed Forces Day celebration on May 15th–16th. Our team was honored to take part in this vibrant two-day event filled with races, competitions, live entertainment, and moving ceremonies supporting our military community. It was a privilege to stand alongside service members, families, and neighbors to help celebrate the courage and dedication of those who serve.

Thank you to the MWR team for hosting such a wonderful event, we were proud to be a part of it!



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