



Kansas State Council of SHRM, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIGHT & CARPENTER CONSULTING NAMED 2026 KANSAS ADVOCACY IN ACTION RECIPIENT

Topeka, KS — Bright & Carpenter Consulting has been named the recipient of the **inaugural 2026 Advocacy in Action Award** by the Kansas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management (KS SHRM). The award recognizes individuals or organizations that turn advocacy into action by addressing critical issues, educating others, influencing policy, expanding access and elevating the voices of those most impacted.

For nearly two decades, Bright & Carpenter Consulting has been a steadfast advocate and partner for Kansas SHRM and HR professionals across the state. The relationship began in 2008, when the firm became Kansas SHRM's council lobbyist. Since then, its role has extended well beyond representation at the State Capitol.

Natalie Bright and Marlee Carpenter have consistently helped Kansas HR professionals understand legislative developments and, importantly, what those developments mean for Kansas workplaces. Their work has supported HR professionals and chapters on issues including immigration, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, wage issues, apprenticeships, sick leave, and other matters affecting employers and employees.

Bright & Carpenter Consulting also equips HR professionals to actively participate in the legislative process by preparing members for testimony, providing legislative updates, and translating complex policy issues into practical information HR professionals can understand and use.

"Advocacy is most powerful when it equips people to participate, and that is exactly what Bright & Carpenter Consulting has done for Kansas HR professionals for nearly 20 years," said Stacey Moeder, Director, KS SHRM. "Natalie and Marlee have consistently educated, connected, and mobilized our profession while ensuring Kansas SHRM has a strong voice on issues affecting workplaces across our state,"

The inaugural award recognizes a partnership defined by consistency, collaboration, and a sustained commitment to advancing the HR profession and ensuring Kansas HR professionals have both a voice and the tools to use it.

Bright & Carpenter Consulting was recognized during the **37th Annual Kansas SHRM Conference in Manhattan**, where more than 600 HR professionals from across Kansas gathered for professional development, networking, and recognition of excellence in the HR profession.

Kansas SHRM congratulates Natalie Bright, Marlee Carpenter, and Bright & Carpenter Consulting on receiving the inaugural Advocacy in Action Award.

For more information about the Advocacy in Action Award, visit <https://ksshrm.org/advocacy-in-action-award/>.

About Kansas State Council of SHRM, Inc.

The Kansas State Council of SHRM, Inc. (KS SHRM) represents more than 3,200 members as the state affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Founded in 1948, SHRM is the world's largest HR association with over 285,000 members worldwide.

KS SHRM is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to supporting HR professionals through education, advocacy, and collaboration. Kansas has 11 SHRM-affiliated chapters, each represented on the State Council.

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