



CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
DR. ROBERT K. JABS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Family Business Center

A Year of Impact for the Region's Family Businesses

A Report to the City of Riverside Economic Development Committee

City Hall Council Chambers • Thursday, August 20, 2026

Dr. Thomas M. Fryer, Director, Family Business Center

WHO WE ARE

A University Center Serving Family-Owned Businesses

OUR MISSION

We strengthen family-owned enterprises through a trusted peer community, the applied expertise of CBU's Jabs School of Business, and practical programming — from governance and succession to AI readiness — that turns knowledge into action.

Based at CBU in Riverside — serving family businesses across the city, the county, and the Inland Empire.



Open programming — meetings free to attend for regional businesses



Faculty expertise across law, finance, leadership, and AI



Student talent pipeline for local businesses



A permanent home at CBU in the City of Riverside

THE PAST YEAR

Twelve Months of Programming, at a Glance



Feb–Oct 2025

Five Morning Meetups drew 223 attendees from across the region



May 2025

First county workshop series delivered — 6 hours of original curriculum



Nov 2025

Dr. Thomas M. Fryer appointed FBC Director; strategic expansion begins



Mar 2026

Governance & Succession Blueprint workshop — five take-home deliverables per family



Apr–Jun 2026

Four-city county workshop series: Temecula, Palm Desert, Beaumont, and CBU in Riverside



Apr–Jun 2026

AI Live Lab and Advisor's Hot Seat bring hands-on AI and expert Q&A to members

WHO WE'VE SERVED

The Numbers Behind the Work

223

attendees across the 2025 Morning Meetup series

~360

regional businesses reached in each outreach cycle

70 / 36

women-owned / minority-owned business participants

5 in 1 day

professional-grade documents each family completes per workshop



Rooted in the City of Riverside. Morning Meetups, flagship workshops, and the county series capstone are hosted at CBU in Riverside — drawing family businesses from the city and across Riverside and San Bernardino counties, with one-on-one advising ongoing throughout 2026.

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

What We Offer Family Businesses



Morning Meetups

Bi-monthly gatherings with keynote family-business leaders and peer networking — open to the community



Full-Day Workshops

Governance & Succession Blueprint; AI in Action — each producing implementation-ready documents



AI Readiness Checks

Single-use-case assessments of real operations, with a written report in days



One-on-One Advising

Confidential sessions on succession, governance, and growth — ongoing through 2026



Advisor's Hot Seat

Legal and financial experts on one stage, answering members' toughest questions live



Newsletters & Toolkits

Practical guidance, templates, and assessments members use long after the meeting ends

SPRING 2026

A Four-City Workshop Series Across the Region

1

Temecula

Governance

2

Palm Desert

Financial Health

3

Beaumont

Succession Planning

4

Riverside (CBU)

Growth Readiness — capstone, in-person & online



Every event pairs an expert-led seminar with a hands-on workshop. Families build governance documents, succession roadmaps, financial action plans, and AI-enhanced growth strategies they can implement immediately — with attendance tracked in person and on demand.

HIGHLIGHTS

Successes and Accomplishments This Year

Marquee speakers grew the room



Eric Goodman's February keynote drew 71 attendees — our largest meeting — and the Fan brothers and Champion Electric brought candid multigenerational stories members called uniquely valuable

Families left with documents



March's Blueprint workshop produced five deliverables per family — and for several, the first structured succession conversation between generations

Regional visibility expanded



Engagements with CalOSBA, the Manufacturer's Council of the Inland Empire, and the Beaumont Chamber connected the FBC to new audiences

AI moved from talk to practice



The April AI Live Lab automated real member processes on screen; several family businesses have since requested AI Readiness Checks

FEATURED STORIES

Member Impact: Three Stories from the Past Year

Real engagements from the past year. Member names are withheld out of respect for confidentiality.



FOURTH-GENERATION READINESS

Ongoing guidance and expertise supporting a family business as it trains its fourth generation of leadership — preparing the next generation for ownership and management.



RIVERSIDE REAL ESTATE AGENCY

Governance, AI guidance, and hands-on technical assistance for a family-owned agency in Riverside — significantly improving day-to-day operations and revenue.



GOVERNANCE & SUCCESSION

A member family completed our Blueprint workshop, held its first structured succession conversation between generations, and left with five governance documents in hand.

M O M E N T U M

What the Coming Year Holds



AI in Action Workshop

Members complete an AI assessment, business case, implementation roadmap, and vendor scorecard — in one day. Runs this summer.



Legacy Link

A structured mentor-matching program pairing next-generation leaders with seasoned family-business mentors — in final review.



Deeper Community Reach

Continued Morning Meetups, advising, AI Readiness Checks, and expanded tracking so we can report impact consistently.

T H A N K Y O U

Strengthening the family businesses that anchor Riverside's economy — one succession, one workshop, one family at a time.

We welcome the Committee's questions — and continued conversation about how this work can serve Riverside's business community.

Dr. Thomas M. Fryer • Director, Family Business Center
 Dr. Robert K. Jabs School of Business, California Baptist University
 tfryer@calbaptist.edu • 951-552-8850