

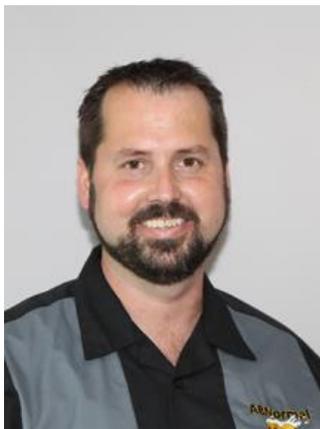


## **Becoming BN Virtual Session: Food & Beverage Chat July 30, 2020**

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm central time

*Becoming BN is a program of the McLean County Community COMPACT,  
a subsidiary of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.*

Bloomington-Normal is famous for its concentrations of restaurants and its love of food and beverages. Did you know Bloomington-Normal is home to unique brewers and food manufacturers? Our final virtual chat for the 2020 program will focus on our two favorite things: Food & Beverage. Join us for a peek behind the curtain into a local fan favorite brewery that began with random conversation and take a look at a famous snack food company that has been snackin' in McLean County since 1953.



**Chad Bevers**, Founder/Head Brewer @ Lil Beaver Brewery

Chad is a Bloomington-Normal native who established Lil Beaver Brewery in 2017. Chad started home brewing nearly 20 years ago and his passion for beer and community helped pave the way for this entrepreneur. Prior to establishing the brewery Chad worked in the nonprofit sector with a large food bank. Through his volunteer work with the local Jaycees, Chad was instrumental in establishing Bruegla, a local annual beer festival, as one of the largest downstate beer festivals in Illinois. This community service forged the path to the creation of Lil Beaver Brewery. Today patrons can visit the Taproom or find their beers at restaurants, bars and events across Illinois.



**Andy Shirk**, President – BEER NUTS® Brand Snacks

Andy is the third generation of Shirks to operate BEER NUTS® Brand Snacks. He envisioned himself growing up as an entrepreneur and saw a career in finance, he didn't necessarily envision his career as the president of the family company. However, under his leadership BEER NUTS has transitioned to a growth-minded culture, who is people focused and continuous improving. Andy is a progressive, driven, down-to-earth, and engaged in the community; serving on the Board of Directors for the McLean County Chamber of Commerce and the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council.