



News Release

For Immediate Release

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WED recognizes 2021 Award Winners

WILLISTON, N.D. – Williston Economic Development (WED) celebrated the achievements of local entrepreneurs and organizations at their annual awards banquet on Friday, May 7, 2021 at The Eleven Restaurant and Lounge.

The following awards were presented at the banquet:

WED Ambassador of the Year - Terry Olson

- This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities towards the advancement of the region. Terry Olson came to Williston State College in 1982 and was the athletic director and men's basketball coach for 26 years. In 2007, he became the executive director of the Williston State College Foundation, where he has led fundraising efforts for the college. Olson's work with athletics and the foundation has impacted thousands of students and staff and created a bright future for WSC. Olson is retiring this year.

WED Community Partnership of the Year: Upper Missouri District Health Unit

- This award is presented to individuals or organizations who demonstrate leadership qualities that enhance the community and region. The Upper Missouri District Health Unit was founded in 1947 and provides public health information and services across four North Dakota counties. Throughout the pandemic, the Upper Missouri District Health Unit's 22-person team stepped up to the challenges our community faced and continues to work tirelessly to prevent and control disease, protect and enhance the environment and promote healthy living.

WED Regional Project of the Year Nominees: Vantis

- This award is presented to a business or entity that has shown exceptional leadership within the region and its field. In 2019, Vantis partnered with the state of North Dakota to create a highway in the sky for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), the first of its kind in the nation. This advanced network for public and commercial UAS operations has already begun to bring new companies, business, jobs, and opportunities to western North Dakota.

WED Icon of the Year: Electric & Magneto

- This award recognizes individuals and businesses that have been a staple in the community for many years. Family-owned since opening in 1946, Electric & Magneto has been Williston's source for generators, alternators, small engines, electric motors, industrial equipment and much more. And with a factory authorized warranty center for service on most brands, Electric & Magneto plans to keep Williston running another 75 years.

To watch the videos of the winners' acceptance speeches, visit https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAp7jcyYMzsbFgWZ8BIUJOz_jE0hRwHtK.