

Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board seeks award nominations

The Dakota-Scott WorkForce Development Board (WDB) is accepting nominations to recognize individuals, programs, companies, and organizations doing great things to improve workplaces in Dakota and Scott Counties. The awards will be presented at the WDB's annual Legislative and Employer Awards luncheon December 16, 2016.

Deadline for nominations is 5 p.m., Nov 1. For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact the Workforce Development Board at 651 554-5633 or email mark.jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us.

Award categories include:

- The Mark McAfee Friend of Workforce Award is given to an individual who has championed workforce issues at the local, state and/or federal levels. Last year's winner was Cathy Kindem. Past winners include: Larry Raddatz, Dakota County Commissioners Will Branning and Tom Egan, U.S. Representative John Kline, State Representatives Katie Sieben and Denny McNamara, Scott County Commissioner Bob Vogel, Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, IHCC President Cheryl Frank, Apple Valley Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, IHCC President Tim Wynes, LaDonna Boyd and Senator Al Franken.
- The Business Champion Award recognizes an outstanding company that also uses WorkForce Center services such as the job fairs, job postings and/or working with counselors. Past winners include: Lettieri's, Don Christensen - Costco, Despatch Industries, Goodrich Sensor Systems (UTC), UPS, Vital Signs MN, Inc., ConAgra Foods, Inc. - Store Brands, Waterous, Frontier Communications, Grazzini Brothers, Permac Industries, St. Gertrudes, Paychex, Stream Global, BTD-Lakeville and Shutterfly/Core Staffing.
- The Bob Killeen Award recognizes companies for their implementation of quality practices. Killeen was a former WDB member who was a tireless advocate for quality efforts. Past winners include: Coca-Cola Refreshments, Ironwood Electronics, Analog Technologies Corp., Dakota Electric, Uponor, Flint Hills, Rollx Vans, Ryt-way, Regina Medical Center, Performance Office Papers, Advanced Wireless Communications and Imagine Print Solutions.
- The Willis E. Branning Excellence in Youth Employment Services Award recognizes an organization or program, an employer or an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to and effectiveness in preparing young people, ages 14-24. Two awards will be made: one for Dakota and one for Scott County. Awards sponsors are St. Francis Regional Medical Center and Dakota Electric Association.
- The Bob Klas Sr. Entrepreneur Award recognizes a local entrepreneur success story. The inaugural award was presented to Bob Klas Sr. Criteria includes: The entrepreneur's success as evidenced by business growth, the individual's leadership in the business and/or civic communities, and/or the mentorship they provide to other entrepreneurs. Previous winners include Fred Shaw, Jim Marchessault, Jennifer Smith, Brad Rixmann, Dan Sjolseth, Michael Esch and Klean Companies.
- Employer of the Year for People with Disabilities will be presented to an employer who has improved the lives of people with disabilities through employment.