

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 14, 2018

Contact:

Crystal Moore

Vice President, Professional Development & Convention

703-998-3550

[cmoore@acce.org](mailto:cmoore@acce.org)



**DES MOINES DOWNTOWN CHAMBER NAMED FINALIST FOR AWARD**

Des Moines, IA (June 14, 2018) — The Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce has been named a finalist for the 2018 Chamber of the Year award, presented by Alexandria, Va.-based Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The award is the most prestigious and competitive recognition presented annually by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). ACCE is an association of more than 8,000 professionals from 1,300 chambers of commerce, including 93 of the top 100 U.S. metro areas.

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes the leadership role chambers have in their communities. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and made an impact on key community priorities, such as education, transportation, business development and quality of life.

Downtown Chamber Executive Director, Jennifer Chittenden, credits this award to her staff, as well as the chamber's Board of Directors and volunteers, and acknowledged the Greater Des Moines Partnership for creating a region of chambers supporting each other. "This news is especially exciting because the winner will be announced at the ACCE conference, which is taking place here in Des Moines July 17-20<sup>th</sup> at one of our own chamber member businesses," stated Chittenden at a special event hosted Wednesday at RDG Planning & Design where the chamber's offices are located. She added that this year is the 10-year anniversary for the Downtown Chamber, and the second year in a row that they are finalists for this honor.

Chamber of the Year winners will be announced at the 2018 ACCE Annual Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

Chambers of commerce interested in competing for the award first must qualify by participating in a vigorous multi-stage process. Organizations entering the Chamber of the Year competition must meet minimum thresholds in at least three of five key performance areas, including net revenue and assets, membership account retention, and membership dollar retention.

Qualifying for Chamber of the Year is a rigorous process. Chambers compete based on meeting key performance criteria on the ACCE Annual Operations Survey. Qualifying chambers enter the competition with a written application addressing all aspects of organizational operation and programmatic work. Applications are scored by peer chamber executives to determine finalists. Winners are selected from among finalists based on an in-person interview before a panel of experienced chamber professionals.

This year's competition drew numerous entries from chambers throughout the U.S and Canada. To ensure the fairest competition, applicants are grouped into five categories based on: annual revenue, membership, area population and other factors.

###

**About the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives**

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, founded in 1914, serves more than 8,000 professionals who lead chambers of commerce. The mission of the Alexandria, Va.-based organization is to support and develop chamber professionals to lead businesses and their communities. Learn more about us by visiting [www.ACCE.org](http://www.ACCE.org).

**About our sponsor, MemberClicks**

MemberClicks, sponsor of the 2018 Chamber of the Year, provides an all-in-one membership management solution and a refreshing support experience that small to mid-sized associations and chambers actually love. Founded in 1998, MemberClicks works with 3,000 organizations throughout North America and Canada. For more information, visit [memberclicks.com](http://memberclicks.com).