

Giving Thanks for our Area Businesses

With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, I decided to dedicate this column to some vital Contributors to the success of our community, who are deserving of our thanks year round - our businesses. In my role as President and CEO of Greater Mankato Growth, I have the occasion to make formal planned visits to more than 60 businesses each year. I start out each one of these visits by saying "thank you" to these businesses for making the decision to locate, stay and grow here. Certainly, businesses have opportunities throughout their lifecycle to consider locating elsewhere, and the confidence they show by remaining and growing in our Greater Mankato region is something for which we ought to be extremely thankful. Without them we wouldn't have the strong community we have today.

This Tuesday we will say "thank you" to some of these businesses, as well as organizations and individuals, who have made significant contributions to our community at the Greater Mankato Business Awards and Hall of Fame on the evening of November 17.

This year's honorees for Greater Mankato Growth are:

Business Hall of Fame Inductees:

James R. Weir Insurance Agency and Schmidt Siding & Window Company, Entrepreneurial Business Award: Sports Institute, Distinguished Business Award: ECS-Electrical Communication Specialist, Brian Fazio Business-Education Partnership Award: Minnesota State University, Mankato Community Engagement Office, Hap Halligan Leadership Award: Pam Year, Young Professional of the Year Award: Robyn



Jonathan Zierdt

**Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.
President & CEO**

James, Greater Mankato Growth Volunteer of the Year: John Daley.

The Greater Mankato Convention and Visitors Bureau will also honor those who have helped further their mission to attract visitors to Greater Mankato. Their honorees are:

Hospitality Award: Pub 500, Bring it Home Award: The Betsy-Tacy Society and the Deep Valley Convention Committee, CVB Volunteer of the Year: Shirley Piepho.

To learn about these organizations and individuals that have made an impact on our community, visit greater-mankato.com/gmg-awards.php.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank the businesses, who understand the importance of honoring our community's finest and have therefore chosen to support the Greater Mankato Business Awards & Hall of Fame: Angie's Kettle Corn, Minnesota Pork Board, Studio 12, United Prairie Bank and Voyager Bank.

Again, thank you to all the organizations and professionals that make Greater Mankato a great place to live and thrive.

Attention Business Owners and Managers: Please give us your input

The Minnesota House of Representatives has formed a new bipartisan caucus, made up of legislators committed to making Minnesota a better place to do business. In an effort to gain as much information as possible from those of you who understand our economy, its current challenges and opportunities best, our local Representatives have asked for Greater Mankato Growth's help in gathering input from the regional business community. Together with Representatives Kathy Brynaert, Tony Cornish and Terry Morrow, we have created a survey to get insight from business owners such as you.

Please visit greatermankato.com/publicpolicy.php and complete the survey anytime from November 16 - 30. Thank you!