

Convention and Visitors Bureau recognizes hospitality workers

MANKATO — Several individuals were surprised on the job with an award from the Greater Mankato Convention and Visitors Bureau last week in celebration of National Travel and Tourism Week.

The winners were selected through a nomination process and given an award for their outstanding service to the travel and tourism industry. Award categories include attractions, hotels, restaurants and a friend of tourism.

The following are the winners and their contributions as described by the CVB:

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for guests.

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Hotel category: Wendi Franke, shift supervisor, at Holiday Inn Express. For the past six years, Franke has been a valuable asset for the hotel as she has gone above and beyond
Attraction category: As director of sales, Adam Marti has built Morgan Creek Vineyards as an important regional agribusiness and cultural tourism destination through the development of numerous events and continually representing the business

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Michael Maes, owner of the Loose Moose Saloon & Conference Center, receives a tourism award from Anna Thill of the Greater Mankato Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Photo courtesy of Greater Mankato Convention and Visitors Bureau

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throughout the state of Minnesota and important wine regions throughout the country.

■ Friend of Tourism category: Mike Lagerquist, director of public relations at Minnesota State University's Department of Theatre and Dance, works tirelessly to bring theater productions to large public audiences from southern Minnesota. He is always willing to work with the C-VB to amplify the experience offered to visitors. His involvement goes beyond M-SU's walls to the BlueEarth County Historical Society, Summit Heritage Board and their committees, Merely Players and more.

■ Restaurant category: Michael Maes, owner of the Loose Moose Saloon & Conference Center, a mainstay in the City Center since 1-903. Five generations have been involved in the business since it has opened.

They have served countless visitors and recently expanded their services to include a conference center to offer more services to visitors.

Each award recipient received a Greater Mankato St aycation package with tickets and gift certificates donated by Greater Mankato businesses and organizations.