



OSHKOSH

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

112th Annual Meeting & Recognition Program

Presented By:



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2019 Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce

Outstanding Chamber Volunteer Award: Mat Wolfgram

Our Outstanding Chamber Volunteer award recognizes an individual or organization who has been dedicated to serving the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.



Mat Wolfgram has been a passionate, dedicated, and instrumental member of the Amplify Oshkosh I.T. Consortium. He is the past chair of the Amplify Engagement Committee, which is charged with raising funds and developing programs that sustain the Amplify Oshkosh effort.

Under Mat's leadership as the 2019 Amplify Skills and Talent Committee Chair, the Committee worked with UW Oshkosh, the Oshkosh Area School District, Menominee Nation Arena, and Chamber staff on the development of an educational video that will be utilized in OASD High Schools focusing on the process of how to develop a Wi-Fi network within a large scale building footprint. This video will be incorporated into the curriculum in our area high schools.

Mat has also been an active volunteer with the Career Fair, UW Oshkosh Networking Night and many other Amplify events. Mat's leadership and his support through his employer, Capital Data, has been a major reason why Amplify Oshkosh has been so successful in its efforts to promote technology and its associated careers in Oshkosh and the New North region.

Propel Young Professional of the Year Award: Elizabeth Coleman

The Propel Young Professional Award is given to an individual between the ages of 21 and 40 who is making a difference in our community.



Elizabeth (Liz) Coleman has been an active member of Propel for the past three years, serving as secretary on the Propel Board of Directors. She is the co-lead of the Propel Membership Committee, actively involved in the events and marketing committees, and has played an integral role in Propel's recent rebranding.

Liz also gives her time to the Fund Development Committee for the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, helping Oshkosh girls build courage, confidence, and character, and empowering them to make the world a better place. And in her role at Silver Star Brands she is actively involved in United Way year-round campaigning.

When asked about why young professionals should join Propel she says, "Joining Propel has empowered me to make meaningful connections and learn more about my community and how I, along with other young professionals in the Oshkosh area, can make it a better place."

Ambassador of the Year Award: Greg Linse

The Ambassador of the Year Award is given to a Chamber Ambassador who has demonstrated outstanding dedication, service and leadership to advance the mission of the Oshkosh Chamber.



Greg Linse has been a dedicated Chamber Ambassador for the last 7 years. You will often find Greg spending his time creating relationships with Chamber member businesses, being one of the first to volunteer his time at Chamber events, and supporting business growth at Chamber held ribbon cuttings. Greg has been one of the most dependable Ambassadors whenever extra help is needed. This year alone, Greg attended over 40 Chamber events.

At first, Greg joined the Chamber Ambassadors to promote his business, but soon it became such an important way to give back by supporting the business community. Greg says "Coming from 30 years of law enforcement, I saw a side to Oshkosh that wasn't always a good side. Being in the business world and especially being an Ambassador, I have been able to meet the most wonderful people in the business community, something I wasn't able to surround myself with until I began volunteering for the Chamber."

Distinguished Service Award: Connie Drexler

The Distinguished Service Award is given to honor the dedicated leadership of a retiring member.



Connie Drexler has served as President of the West Side Association, an affiliate to the Oshkosh Chamber, for 14 years. She has been an essential member of the Oshkosh West Side Association, serving on the board since 1993.

Under her leadership, West Side Association began its signature event, The Developer's Panel held each February which features private projects that normally businesses might not have an opportunity to hear about. The event continues to grow each year along with the exciting developments happening in Oshkosh.

Connie also represented the West Side Association on the Oshkosh Chamber Board for the past 11 years. She's been an active Chamber Ambassador volunteer for the last 17 years, serving a term as Ambassador President and is a Leadership Oshkosh graduate.

Lynne Webster Leadership Award: Michael Dempsey

This award is presented in memory of Lynne Webster, a woman who exemplified a commitment to Oshkosh like no other.



Lifelong Oshkosh resident and Bank First President, Michael (Mike) Dempsey has proven to be one of Oshkosh's most dynamic leaders. Mike has served as Chairman of the several Oshkosh organizations including: the Chamber, YMCA, Jaycees, United Way Fund Drive, and served as a board member on the UW Oshkosh Chancellor's Advisory Committee. Mike has also been a key presenter at the Leadership Oshkosh program's Arts and Culture Day, sharing the history and the impact Waterfest has had on the Oshkosh community.

We'd especially like to call attention to Mike's leadership in continuing the Waterfest Concert series for the last 34 years. On any given night, Waterfest brings thousands of fans to downtown Oshkosh not only to enjoy the event, but to give patronage to downtown businesses. Waterfest, the longest running community concert series in the state, began as a Celebration of The Quality of Life we enjoy here in the Fox Valley Area.

Presentation of Award Winners

Alberta S. Kimball Community Service Award: Oshkosh Corporation for Feed the Body, Feed the Soul

The Alberta S. Kimball Community Service Award is given to an individual or organization that has made a significant impact on the Oshkosh community.



First launched in August 2017, Oshkosh Corporation's Feed the Body, Feed the Soul was launched as a musical event to raise money to purchase rice which was then packed by community volunteers and donated to those in need. That year, more than 250,000 pounds of rice were packaged by 900 community volunteers to support those in need in 18 Northeast Wisconsin counties. After the success of the first event, Oshkosh Corporation held its second Feed the Body, Feed the Soul event at the Menominee Nation Arena in spring of 2019.

Since the inception of Feed the Body, Feed the Soul, more than 600,000 pounds of food have been packed and almost 3,000 Oshkosh team members and community members have given their time and talent to make it happen. Each year, these food staples help feed families in Northeast Wisconsin.

As Feed the Body, Feed the Soul continues to grow, Oshkosh Corporation plans to replicate in other areas where their team members live and work. More than just volunteering, Feed the Body, Feed the Soul has delivered a fun way to give back to those in need.

Stephen Mosling Commitment to Education Award: Chuck Galipo



The Stephen Mosling Commitment to Education Award is given to an individual or organization in our community who has displayed leadership and dedication to the future of our workforce.

Chuck Galipo is being recognized for his dedication to educating students in middle, high school and technical college about careers within manufacturing. He participates in many in-class projects and speaking engagements at Merrill Middle School's technical education classes and has coordinated numerous manufacturing career field trips for middle and high school students over the years at Muza Metal Products.

This past year, Chuck was the liaison coordinating Project GRILL, a program designed to introduce high school students to manufacturing careers, for Muza Metal Products with Oshkosh North High School students. He's been involved in the Fox Valley Technical College program, "Girls in the Shop" which educates high school girls on manufacturing careers. Chuck is a member of Fox Valley Technical College Metal Fabrication and Welding Advisory Committee in both Oshkosh and Appleton. He helped design a curriculum that keys in on teaching the skills relevant for area manufacturers.

Horizon Award: Experimental Aircraft Association



The Horizon Award is given to a person or organization with a clear and distinctive vision of the future for Oshkosh.

A half-century ago, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) founder Paul Poberezny saw Oshkosh as the perfect place to bring together aviation enthusiasts. For the past 50 years, EAA AirVenture has been bringing visitors from all over the country and the world to Oshkosh. Just this past year, EAA AirVenture drew a record breaking 642,000 visitors and had an economic impact of \$170 million for the five counties in the Oshkosh region. Today, the event and legacy have become known to so many as simply Oshkosh.

EAA AirVenture has positioned Oshkosh as the Aviation Mecca of the World.

Enterprise of the Year Award: The Outlet Shoppes at Oshkosh

The Enterprise of the Year Award is in recognition of a local business that continues to grow and provide our community with a significant and consistent amount of jobs and support.



The Outlet Shoppes have been a primary source of retail for Oshkosh for almost 30 years. Horizon Group Properties purchased the center in 2007 and officially renamed it to what many already called it - The Outlet Shoppes. In 2011, it underwent a major renovation adding geometrically-shaped signs, mini park-like seating areas with landscaping and canopies, and a picnic play area for children. Following a very successful leasing effort, twelve major new stores opened including Under Armour, Fox, Columbia Sportswear, Coach, Michael Kors, and Johnny Rockets. This prompted the Outlet to celebrate a Re-Grand Opening. It boasts 50 tenants and is currently undergoing another update to its aesthetics and is adding Auntie Anne's and Cinnabon to its tenant list.

The stores, within the center, employ over 1,000 people and have over 2 million visitors a year. Visitors from all over Wisconsin make a special trip to enjoy shopping at the Outlets. It is a favorite stop for people traveling on Interstate 41 and has become an icon to many who travel to Green Bay Packers games, EAA, and other regional attractions, bringing in shoppers from all over the world.

The Outlet Shoppes also ingrains itself in the community by hosting community events and donation drives like Coats for Kids.

Small Business of the Year Award: Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center

Businesses of many sizes make Oshkosh a great place to live and work, but this year we would like to shine the spotlight on the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center.



In 2012, Rich Batley, partner in Oshkosh Investors LLC and owner of RB Hospitality purchased the downtown hotel. Over \$12 million dollars were spent to renovate the existing hotel and restaurant and the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center was born and over five years later it has become a popular venue for statewide meetings and conventions, as well as for local groups and visitors. The highly successful hotel, convention center and restaurant have become a draw for the downtown area and for the waterfront. Since it opened, the hotel has exceeded expectations in the Oshkosh market in both annual occupancy and average daily rate.

The Hotel has been recognized as an industry leader in the Nation and the State. The hotel has consistently maintained the #1 spot on the TripAdvisor review site since opening in 2013 and received the J.D. Power award for being "#1 in Guest Satisfaction among Upscale Hotels". Annual quality assurance inspections have been in the top 5% of all Best Western Hotels in North America (just over 2,000 hotels) earning the Best Western Chairman's Award every year since opening. In 2013, Hotel General Manager, Dan Schetter was awarded the Association's prestigious "Innkeeper of the Year" Award with recognition received by the State's Governor, Scott Walker.

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Tonight's Recognized Milestone Anniversaries:

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- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Celebrating 125 Years
- Lamers Bus Lines - Celebrating 75 Years
- Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) – Celebrating 50 Years
- Sure-Dry Basement Systems - Celebrating 25 Years
- TLC Sign - Celebrating 25 Years