

## Past Vision Award Recipients

Indian Hills Community College

### 2015 Vision Award Recipients



#### **Business of the Year**

**White Communications – (Entrepreneur: Jeff White, accepting)**

The entrepreneurial journey begins like so many do, with the entrepreneur staring out in his parents' garage. Unfortunately many firms don't survive beyond that initial garage phase, but with hard work and a commitment to customer service, this firm not only made it out of the garage, but by 2014 the firm was bringing in \$15.4 million in sales as an installer for DIRECTV®. "When growth caused this company to consider its options for expansion, not only did the company decide to remain in the local area by building in Bloomfield's Industrial Park, but it also chose local contractors for the construction of a 10,800 sq. ft. building." Their new corporate headquarters will allow for continued growth, and sets them up to potentially become the largest national contractor for DIRECTV.



#### **New Business of the Year**

**Main Street Donuts – (Owners: John & Lynne Tauchen, accepting)**

Main Street Donuts owners, John and Lynne Tauchen actually started off their business in Market on Main, often times selling out of inventory before the days end. Quickly realizing the opportunity to expand, they rehabbed the old Wonderbread/Hostess store and highlighted one item, "their donuts." Along with this signature item, they also serve a full breakfast and lunch menu. Expansion is still on their minds and they are looking at several innovative ways to utilize retired rail cars into an evening dining experience. This business now employees 14 people and John and Lynne give them a lot of credit for their success. Saying, "In reality, everyone on the team works as hard as we do. We have great people baking, making fresh donuts, cooking on the grill, and smiling at the counter. And beyond the regular work force, we have a group of wonderful seniors from Ottumwa High School who work the front counter on the weekends."



#### **Student Entrepreneur of the Year**

**Cody Nordyke & Samantha Snyder**

Cody and Samantha first came up with their business as the result of an Eddyville-Blakesburg-Freemont school assignment. This student team launched a venture specializing in creating metal roses. The nominator wrote: "the special thing about these roses is they are made of scrap metal. They are creating really cool art with scraps people throw away."



### **Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year** **Kelly Kauzlarich**

Kelly Kauzlarich, long-time educator from Centerville High School. Due to lack of resources and the limited number of hours in a day, it seems that entrepreneurship is often overlooked in K-12 education. Our winner this year has made it a priority to incorporate entrepreneurial thinking into his curriculum. He attended a teacher training program at the University of Iowa designed to provide educators with entrepreneurial content for their K-12 classrooms. He has incorporated these concepts into his curriculum to get his students thinking about the importance of entrepreneurship at a younger age. In the Fall of 2014 he made a point of taking a bus load of students to a local Small Business Boot camp. The program was actually targeted towards small business owners, but the students joined in the discussions and learned real world challenges the business owners were facing. Kelly recognized the value of getting his students out of the classroom and into a real world environment. His commitment to entrepreneurship education makes him a perfect fit for this award.



### **Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year** **David Birchmier**

This year our winner is not only an Indian Hills graduate, but he chose to start and build his company just down the road in Bloomfield, IA. David has grown the company from humble roots as a computer repair firm, to its current status as an app developer and corporate infrastructure provider with employees based locally and abroad. Clearly, this is an individual who has incredible vision and drive, and we are proud to have him as a graduate of our college.



### **Lifetime Achievement Award** **Dick Smith**

After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1960 with degrees in Industrial and Mechanical Engineering, Smith honed his craft at Plax Company in Hartford, Connecticut; Monsanto and Schluter Manufacturing in St. Louis; and Cory Machine in Bonaparte, Iowa. In 1978 he founded Agri Industrial Plastics Company, choosing Fairfield as its home. What began with one blow molding machine and 4 employees has grown today to encompass a 20-acre campus employing 170 full-time personnel. Recognized as being a leading manufacturer of non-automotive multi-layer fuel tanks, Agri produces a wide array of custom blow molded parts for agricultural, recreational and commercial use. The city of Fairfield and state of Iowa have also benefitted from Smith's leadership. He has served on the boards of the Fairfield Economic Development Association, Iowa Association of Business and Industry, and Iowa State Bank, as well as serving as president of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce. He and his

wife Judy have been enthusiastic supporters of Fairfield's Art and Convention Center, Fairfield Park & Rec, and the University of Iowa College of Engineering. And they are long-time members of Fairfield's First Presbyterian Church.



### **Social Venture of the Year**

#### **Sharing the Weight – (Founder- Marci Prose, accepting)**

Anyone who has had children will remember some sleepless nights early on, but imagine if you got less than an hour of sleep nearly every night for over two years. That was the stressful situation our award winners found themselves in. When their sleepless child was diagnosed with autism, a friend loaned the family a weighted blanket, and finally the boy slept through the night. Some would have simply rejoiced in having found a solution to their own problem, and the story could have ended there. Instead, a non-profit was formed with the mission to create and distribute, free of charge, weighted blankets for children with special needs. These blankets, which are filled with poly pellets, would otherwise cost families anywhere from \$100 to \$500 to purchase on their own.

## **2014 Vision Award Recipients**



### **Business of the Year**

#### **Fat Baggers, Inc.**

The winner of the entrepreneurial business award was Fat Baggers, Inc. of Chariton. The company, owned by Gary and Amy Chipp, manufactures complete, custom motorcycle baggers and custom bagger parts. The business has grown over the past 10 years and now employs 30 people.



### **New Business of the Year**

#### **Albia Brewing Company**

Albia Brewing Company, owned by Brian and Barbara Lindberg, was chosen as the new business of the year. The Lindbergs opened their restaurant/bar in the Skean's Block Building in Albia in 2012 and have been doing well. They have more than 20 different microbrews listed on their website and typically have seven or eight varieties on tap daily.



### **Student Entrepreneur of the Year** **Justin Clements**

Justin Clements, an IHCC Landscape and Turfgrass Technology student, was honored as the student entrepreneur of the year. He operates JC Lawncare, Landscape & Snow Removal in Fairfield.

Clements has grown his business and is now looking to add his first employees.



### **Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year** **Diane Goudy**

Diane Goudy, a business teacher at Fairfield High School, was chosen as the entrepreneurial educator of the year. Described as someone who makes entrepreneurship “come alive for students,” she has worked with parents and business leaders to form Friends of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), which sponsors entrepreneurial experiences outside of the classroom.



### **Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year** **Cathy Penniston**

Cathy Penniston of Ottumwa was the winner of the Indian Hills Alumni Entrepreneur award. She owns Cathy Penniston Court Reporting and Captioning. Penniston provides a vital service to deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers throughout the U.S. and Canada by sending real-time captions from her office to TV stations which then transmit them to consumers. She also captions individual classes for students at universities across the country. Her captions are streamed live to students’ laptops and iPads during their classes.



### **Lifetime Achievement Award** **Brian Zigler**

Bryan Ziegler, director of the Area XV Small Business Development Center, received the Lifetime Achievement Award. For the past 30 years, Ziegler has given clients advice on general business planning, financing and marketing strategies. He also teaches courses related to entrepreneurship.





### **Social Venture of the Year** **Market on Main, Heather Ware**

A new award, the Social Entrepreneur of the year, was given to Market on Main in Ottumwa. Social entrepreneurship involves creating innovative solutions to social problems. Market on Main is working to connect local agricultural producers to the regional community and to stimulate small business development.

## **2013 Vision Award Recipients**



### **Business of the Year** **Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.**

The winner of the entrepreneurial business award was Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., of Fairfield. The company has been established in the financial services industry for more than 30 years and, in recent years, has experienced phenomenal growth bringing hundreds of jobs to their home office in Fairfield. Cambridge has also been named as one of the top places to work in Iowa by the Des Moines Register. Dan Sullivan, vice-president of marketing, and Ryan Reineke, senior vice-president of operations and technology, accepted the award for Cambridge.



### **New Business of the Year** **The Little Bake Shop**

The Little Bake Shop, owned by Melissa Little, was chosen as the new business of the year. This business began in Little's home and expanded into a storefront in downtown Ottumwa last year. In fact, while still located in downtown Ottumwa, the shop has already had to move into a larger location.



### **Student Entrepreneur of the Year** **Mitch Goudy**

Mitch Goudy, a senior at Fairfield High School, was selected as the student entrepreneur of the year. Goudy is the owner and operator of MTG DJ Service. Goudy's business has grown to the point where he now has a partner and, at times, has to hire others because of multiple bookings on the same day.



### **Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year**

**Holly Berndt**

Holly Berndt, a business teacher in the Wayne (Corydon) Community School District, was chosen as the entrepreneurial educator of the year. In one of her courses, Berndt has students work at various businesses in the community, thus learning what it takes for small businesses to be successful.



### **Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year**

**Josh Bear**

Josh Bear of Derby was the winner of the Indian Hills Alumni Entrepreneur award. Bear, a graduate of the college's Automotive Technology program, owns a full-service automobile repair business called Kar Knuts. Bear has gained a reputation for the top quality and honesty that he provides in his business.



### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Joe Crookham**

Joe Crookham was honored for his long-time entrepreneurial efforts with the Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the president and principal owner of Musco Lighting of Oskaloosa.

Musco has employees based in 10 countries around the world and sells lighting for projects in 50-60 countries per year. The company's primary focus is sports and recreational lighting with the majority of their sales being recreational and high school sports venues. However, large sports facilities like Yankee Stadium, Wimbledon and Daytona Speedway have also contracted with Musco.

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## **2012 Vision Award Recipients**



### **Business of the Year**

**Mid-States Manufacturing and Engineering**

The winner of the Entrepreneurial Business of the Year award was Mid-States Manufacturing and Engineering in Milton, Iowa. Despite the downturn in the economy in recent years, Mid-States has seen tremendous growth and has increased from 20 to 60 employees. The company, owned and operated by Kevin Early, is a major employer in their area.



### **New Business of the Year** **Tortilleria Los Twins**

Tortilleria Los Twins of Ottumwa, Iowa was chosen as the New Business of the Year. Tortilleria Los Twins produces fresh tortillas. Opened earlier this year, the business is owned and operated by Jose Rodas and his family.



### **Student Entrepreneur of the Year** **Brooklyn Burrell**

Brooklyn Burrell, a senior at Eddyville-Blakesburg High School, was selected as the Student Entrepreneur. Burrell recently purchased a restaurant and now owns and operates Brooklyn's Steakhouse in Blakesburg, Iowa.



### **Entrepreneurial Educator of the Year** **Ben Booth**

Ben Booth, a teacher in the Tri-County School District, was chosen as the Entrepreneurial Educator. Booth teaches agriculture courses and is the Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor at the school. He has started many new entrepreneurial ventures with his students, including growing and selling various plants in the greenhouse.



### **Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year** **Gaylon Cowan**

Gaylon Cowan of Centerville, Iowa was the first winner of the Indian Hills Alumni Entrepreneur award. Cowan and his brother, Geoff, have created, developed, and now operate C & C Machining, a highly-successful machining company that ships products worldwide.