
PRESS RELEASE

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ACCOLADES FOR PRESIDENT ABBOTT, AWARD WINNERS AT VCDC ANNUAL BANQUET

Vermillion, SD, April 6th, 2018 - The Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company welcomed a record-breaking crowd to last night's festive Annual Banquet. Over 400 attendees enjoyed an evening that included the ever-entertaining emcee talents of local celebrity Mitchell Olson, a warm and revealing discussion between retiring USD President James Abbott and Board of Regents President Bob Sutton, and the presentation of several community awards. The event was generously supported by the Beacom School of Business and the Puetz Corporation.

"We simply cannot express how appreciative we are of the many, many individuals who were instrumental in pulling off this year's event, because we couldn't have done this without them," states Nate Welch, VCDC President & CEO. "This took the work of not only our staff and interns, special events committee volunteers, Aramark employees, sound & video technicians, centerpiece donors, and presenters, but it also takes dynamic and invested community members who show up in record numbers! Without them, it wouldn't be the celebration that it is."

Each year the VCDC hosts this Annual Banquet as a way to invigorate and celebrate the community's accomplishments, as well as some of the special people who've worked hard in various capacities to help Vermillion succeed. Among this year's award recipients were:

Mayor's Award for Community Service – James Abbott
VCDC Community Leader Award – Jim Peterson of Masaba
United Way Volunteer of the Year – Randy Rasmussen
VCDC's NEXT Young Professional of the Year – Travis Letellier
VCDC Brick Awards – Knutson Family Dentistry
Mart Brothers Construction
Tractor Supply
Vermillion Area Dance Organization
USD Foundation
Edward Jones, Patrick Higgins
HyVee
Vermillion Public Schools
Charcoal Lounge
THiNK thread & ink



In addition to the awarding of those honors, VCDC President & CEO Nate Welch also revealed during his “State of the VCDC” speech that Vermillion has been selected to host the Special Olympics South Dakota Summer Games for 2019 and 2020. The VCDC Sports Authority has been working hard in recent months to craft the winning event bid, and the community is sure to benefit greatly from the presence of these athletes. It is no coincidence that the 2019 games will mark the 51st year of Special Olympics SD, and that SOSD started right here in Vermillion in an office on the campus of USD,” shares Welch. “Our community is incredibly honored to have the start of the second half of a century of Special Olympics South Dakota back where it started. Like the track competition, Special Olympics would be making the turn toward another 50-year lap!”

For more information contact Susan Heggstad, Marketing & Tourism Manager, at the VCDC offices at 605-624-5571.