

PRESS RELEASE

Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development (LOREDC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOREDC Annual Meeting – Awards Business for Outstanding Contributions

The annual meeting of the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC) was held Thursday, January 16th at Ozark Yacht Club. The informative program reviewed project updates from the past year and presented areas of concentration in the coming year for economic development including housing, marketing, and the organization's growth. Keynote Speaker, Mark Sutherland, Chief Marketing Officer for the Missouri Partnership shared the role of the public-private partnership in promoting Missouri and new initiatives in marketing the State and the importance for communities to market regionally and to share "their story" for business recruitment.

Business awards were presented for Small Business Partner of the Year (50 employees or less), Large Business Partner of the Year (More than 50 employees or more), Business Person of the Year, and Emerging Venture of the Year. To be eligible nominees must have been in business for a minimum of six months and a registered business in Camden, Miller or Morgan County.

LOREDC Award Recipients were:

The Small Business Partner of the Year was presented to Mike and Kris Ford, Culver's Restaurant. Mike and Kris Ford became full time owners of their business in 2017, prior to being ownership partners. It should not be overlooked that this business employs 35 full time employees year-round which grows to over 45 during the busy summer season. However, it is the community support and contributions to youth, that makes this business a standout. From partnering with Red Cross for local blood drives – a pint of custard for a pint of blood donated to providing meals to youth sporting teams. Their real passion is their work with kids with special needs in Camdenton High School. These kids experience a real-world work environment while developing job skills as they perform various duties from delivering food to assisting customers.

Lake Regional Health System was honored as the Large Business Partner of the Year. – Lake Regional Health System has been in the region for over 40 years and the community impact of this partner is off the charts as are their numbers.

- 1100 – number of full-time employees
- \$400,000 – their donation of free medical services including screenings and support groups
- \$92,000 – scholarships awarded to those pursuing health care careers.
- \$269,000 – direct financial contributions made by our recipient to local charities.

All of this and meeting the mission of providing exceptional health care. But they are not done for this recipient is planning a major expansion featuring a new cardiac institute and expanded cancer center.

The Emerging Venture of the Year was presented to Shannon and Katie Imler, SPI Enterprises, LLC.

Shannon and Katie are entrepreneurs at heart. Within the last five years they have started three businesses that have transformed the Eldon area. A construction company that provides new construction, remodeling, and design services for nearly any project on any budget. Just take a drive down South Maple and you will notice all the amazing remodels that this company has completed. Warehouse 55 is another business. They took the old Kraft Factory and turned it into an event venue available for weddings, parties, and other gatherings. The Ice Cream Factory is their third business within the last year. The Ice Cream Factory has brought happiness to all in the area through their delicious locally made ice cream. The Ice Cream Factory has been eaten by the Kansas City Chiefs and Governor Parson. Due to their success, the Ice Cream Factory is expanding to Jefferson City this spring and is served at many locations throughout the state.

Jasen Jones was recognized as the Business Person of the Year. Jasen has spent over 20 years in the hospitality industry. His business philosophy is to create an environment and conditions that will allow individuals to align their strengths to the company's vision, so guests receive a more personalized experience. While he is a standout in his profession, his community involvement is just as impressive. From serving as a BIG with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to fulfilling the term of Board President of the Camdenton Chamber of Commerce. In the last year, Jasen has been whole heartedly committed to feeding those in need in our community by volunteering at the mobile food pantry, replenishing Buddy Back Packs and assisting The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. It was once said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" and that says it all about Jasen!

In other business at the meeting, the LOREDC members were presented with a slate of candidates for three Board positions. Amy Jackson (State Fair Community College) was elected to the Board and K.C. Cloke (Lake Area Chamber of Commerce) and Paul Hooper (Lake West Chamber of Commerce) were both re-elected to serve a three-year term.

The 2020 Board of Directors and Officers are Jeana Woods, President (City of Osage Beach); Dane Henry, Vice-President (Lake Regional Health System); K.C. Cloke, Secretary (Lake Area Chamber of Commerce); Paul Hooper, Treasurer (Lake West Chamber of Commerce); Roger Corbin (City of Sunrise Beach); Trish Creach (Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce); Joyce Ryerson (Morgan County R-II School District); and Amy Jackson (State Fair Community College).

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