

# Honors and officers (May 21, 2016)

By [Dianna Baumann](#) on May 21, 2016 at 1:43 a.m.

## **Moorhead Insurance Agency recognized**

The Moorhead Insurance Agency has earned the status of Pinnacle/Leader for last year's business performance with MetLife Auto and Home, and was recognized for outstanding achievement at the company's annual Leaders Conference in April.

The Pinnacle/Leader designation is only given to outstanding independent agencies that have met or exceeded the company's production and quality requirements.

## **NDSCS earns 'College of Tomorrow' award**

The North Dakota State College of Science has earned "The College of Tomorrow" award from the John Deere Co. The award, which was presented during the college's John Deere Tech Advisory Committee Meeting, serves as a ranking system for the 16 colleges in the United States that offer a John Deere tech program.

NDSCS earned the highest ranking of platinum for the second consecutive year. In 2014, the college earned the second highest ranking of gold. The ranking system consists of four levels: platinum, gold, silver and bronze.

## **Icelandic National League elects president**

Sunna Pam Olafson Furstenau, Fargo, has been elected president of the Icelandic National League of North America. Elections were held April 30 during the 97th annual meeting of the organization.

Furstenau is active in many Icelandic-related volunteer activities including the Icelandic Community Association in Pembina County, N.D., as well as the Fargo-Moorhead Icelandic Klub. She is also the United States representative for the Icelandic National

League in Iceland, which is a sister organization of the INLNA, working towards the same goals for Iceland.

### **Houston Engineering earns excellence award**

The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota has recognized Houston Engineering, Fargo, with the 2016 Engineering Excellence Award for the Lake Shure Bridge Replacement Project. The award recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value. It was presented during ACEC/ND's annual meeting on May 10.

Several flood events in the past few years had limited or cut off access to nearly 30 homes in the Lake Shure neighborhood north of Fargo. The new bridge is now above the 100-year floodplain, providing safe access for residents.

### **Simanski earns Daisy Award**

Sanford Health, Fargo, has awarded registered nurse Thomas Simanski with the Daisy award, which is presented to nurses who are recognized as outstanding role models and consistently demonstrate excellence through clinical expertise and compassionate, extraordinary care.

Simanski works in Sanford Fargo's critical care services-adult intensive care unit.

### **NDSU health faculty recognized**

Four faculty members in the College of Health Professions at North Dakota State University have been recognized for their contributions to service, advising and research.

The faculty members and their awards include: Elizabeth Skoy, associate professor of pharmacy practice, Dean's Award for Exemplary Service; Stefanie Meyer, academic coordinator and lecturer in public health, Dean's Award for Outstanding Advising; and Bin Guo, associate professor in pharmaceutical sciences, and Mark Strand, professor of pharmacy practice, Dean's Award for Excellence in Research.

### **Quota International elects Kelly, Moritz**

Quota International, a non-profit organization that supports speech and hearing impaired individuals as well as disadvantaged families, has elected Paula Kelly, West Fargo, as region three director and Heather Moritz, West Fargo, as secretary/treasurer.

Kelly has been with Quota International of Fargo since 1997. She works for Ramsey National Bank, Fargo, as a deposit services officer.

Moritz has been with Quota International of Fargo since 1999. She owns and operates Alphabet Avenue, a day care in West Fargo.

### **D&M Industries honored**

D&M Industries, Moorhead, has been selected by the Employee Stock Ownership Plan Association as a winner in the 2016 Annual Awards for Communications Excellence. D&M was runner-up in the special events and promotions—one outstanding event category.

The AACE Awards are sponsored each year by the ESOPA to recognize the communications and educational programs of its members.

### **Board of education, school district honored**

The Fargo Board of Education has received the Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for having met or exceeded the program's standards for financial reporting and accountability. The district was recognized for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. This is the 12th consecutive year the board has received the award.

Additionally, the Fargo Public School District will maintain district-wide AdvancED accreditation for the next five years. As part of the accreditation evaluation process, the AdvancED external review team conducted an on-site review April 17-20, 2016. They examined district and building documents, interviewed more than 240 stakeholders and visited more than 70 classrooms.

### **Draeger achieves Circle of Success**

Dennis Draeger, a financial adviser with Ameriprise Financial at 2300 13th Ave. S., Fargo,

has qualified for the company's Circle of Success annual recognition program. Draeger was honored for this achievement at the 2016 national conference in Las Vegas.

To earn this achievement, Draeger established himself as one of the company's top advisers, achieving high levels in production, client service and client satisfaction.

### **VISIONBank receives savings award**

VISIONBank, Fargo, has been recognized with the America Saves Designation of Savings Excellence Award for the second year in a row. VISIONBank is the only community bank in North Dakota to receive the award.

The designation recognizes banks nationwide that went above and beyond to encourage healthy savings habits during America Saves Week. VISIONBank used CD specials, social media and the Scout's Kids Club, a savings program which educates children and encourages them to save at a young age.

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