

The Chamber Business Journal

May 2022

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

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2022 OMEGA Honorees

Inspirational young leaders who are changing lives



The McPherson Chamber established the OMEGA Award to recognize McPherson County 8th graders for making a difference by their courage, compassion, and services. We were honored to present the 2022 Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Awards during the May Fete activities on May 11, 2022.

OMEGA nominations are submitted by teachers, neighbors, grandparents, ministers, family friends and youth leaders with stories about amazing youth that are kindhearted, resilient, and generous. We want to share how their positive attitudes are making a difference. Congratulations to the following 8th grade students from McPherson County.

Dylan Bruce- When it comes to service, Dylan Bruce is always one of the first to volunteer. This attitude of service comes from his compassion for others. Whether it is helping to distribute food during the Farm to Table program or volunteering with his church, Dylan goes above and beyond to help with the needs of others. These traits that Dylan demonstrates makes him a deserving choice for the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Thank you, Dylan, for being a great example of looking beyond ourselves and seeking opportunities to help others!

Allison Henry- Being the second child of seven comes with great opportunities to be courageous, compassionate, and having an attitude of service. Allison Henry is a caring and smart young lady who is a shining example of what it means to have a big heart! Allison is well-deserved of the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Whether it is Allison serving others at her job, church, or helping her younger siblings, you can find her being a team player and being willing to find more ways to help others. Thank you, Allison, for your big heart and being a great leader at work, church, and at home!

Ryan Cass- You got a friend in Ryan Cass! Ryan Cass is a perfect example of what it means to be a friend to everyone. The Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award is given to Ryan because he is a sincere friend to all kids. Ryan is amazingly kind and loves cheering on those around him. This compassion towards others has led Ryan to have a spirit of service. He is self-motivated to pick up a piece of trash, hold a door, give a hug or smile, and pray for someone who needs it. Thank you, Ryan, for being a great example of what it means to be a friend to everyone.

Kynslie Minns- Known by many as a person who is not afraid to speak up when one of her classmates is being picked on. Kynslie Minns is a clear choice for the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Kynslie is not only courageous, but she is also compassionate in helping others. While in elementary school, she learned some sign language to help a younger student during lunch. You will find Kynslie being courageous and compassionate, but you will also find her helping serve younger kids during McPherson Mini Main. Thank you, Kynslie, for being a wonderful example of love and compassion towards others.

Allee Mannebach- This Inman Jr. High School student is well-deserving of the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. According to all her teachers at Inman Jr. High School, Allee Mannebach is one of the most compassionate students. If Allee sees someone in need, she is the first one to help. Allee gives 100% in everything she does and that has resulted in her being on the honor roll every year. Allee is a genuinely happy person that positively impacts all of those around her. Thank you, Allee, for modeling respect and kindness to your classmates and teachers.

Brayden Senecal- Leading by example is what Brayden Senecal is all about. This year, Brayden took charge in leading a lesson for his youth group. It went so well that two others are wanting to lead a lesson in the future. Not only is Brayden helping others become leaders, but Brayden is also serving the church by being on the tech team. On Sunday mornings, you can find Brayden hanging out in the sound booth helping with worship service. Brayden is an excellent person to receive the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award. Thank you, Brayden, continue to set an example for others in speech, in conduct, and in love.

Peyton Bonham- Compassion that turns into service is a great thing to have in your life. Peyton Bonham is a perfect example of such compassion and service. The Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award is awarded to Peyton for her dedication to make a difference in the lives of others. Peyton has raised over \$10,000 through her “Cookies for a Cause.” She has helped make a difference for ranchers, and those who are fighting cancer. Peyton also connects and listens to the thing’s classmates want and collaborates with the other peers to let their voices be heard. Thank you, Peyton, for your compassionate heart for your friends and for your community.

Congratulations to the 2022 OMEGA honorees; inspirational young leaders who are changing lives through their compassionate attitudes and positive actions

Anyone Can Lead

When I grow up, I want to be like the OMEGA honorees! When I read though the inspirational stories about the amazing youth in our community who are making a difference in so many ways, it made my heart happy. It is such a refreshing reminder about the good-hearted people all around us.

As I sat at Lakeside Park on Wednesday night of May Fete, I appreciated the grandparents who couldn’t wait to watch their special youngster perform. The proud parents who were capturing photos of their shining star on the big stage. And who wouldn’t find joy in watching the little ones in the audience dancing to their own music? It’s a timeless tradition in McPherson where all ages gather to celebrate the blessing of community.

Then there are times that I wonder what the heck. When social media blows up with negativity and hurtful comments from people who wouldn’t want their grandmother to read it. Is their complaining going to make a positive change? Is it something that they are proud to share with their children and grandchildren? Are we headed toward community burn out? Heck NO! There will always be naysayers, but there are sooooo many truly beautiful, positive, inspirational people in our community.

Sometimes it takes the bright light, shining from our youth, to remind us about kindness, about positive actions and how far that beacon of hope can reach. For every negative, there are thousands of compassionate people. We are a community of dedicated volunteers, of inspirational leaders who collaborate to make improvements, of thoughtful neighbors, of entrepreneurs encouraging others, and a community filled with impressionable little’s. We truly have an amazing community, and we need to remember that the next generation is learning from our actions.

Let’s all grow up to be like the Outstanding McPherson area Eighth Grade Award honorees and change lives through our compassionate attitudes and positive actions.



Debbie Hawkinson
Executive Director,
McPherson Chamber
of Commerce.

Chamber Blue of Kansas

Local businesses have opportunity to join Chamber Health Insurance Plan and make insurance more affordable for business owners.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce a new partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBS KS) and Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS). This partnership stitches together 34 local Chambers of Commerce across Kansas to offer an Association Health Plan called Chamber Blue of Kansas.

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and all chambers involved in this partnership realize and recognize that recruiting and retaining talent is vital for business and industry of all sizes, especially small businesses. Having access to trusted health insurance benefits are a crucial piece to that success. The Chamber Blue of Kansas is focused on providing more value to business owners and their employees. With more health insurance plan options at competitive rates, employers can provide rich benefits, helping attract and retain top talent.

An Association Health Plan is a type of group medical insurance for organizations that allow smaller companies to access the health insurance savings associated with large group medical coverage. Through this, small business, non-profits, and organizations can band together to purchase insurance. That allows more people in the pool, which lowers risk across the pool, and provides more health insurance options, potentially with much more competitive premiums.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS has the largest provider network in Kansas with 99% of physicians in-network, and 100% of hospitals in network. BCB-SKS also provides a very robust package of health care solutions like their HealthyOptions program, which is a powerful set of services, tools, and one-on-one support to live a healthy life at no extra cost as a BCBSKS member.

Other key details of Chamber Blue of Kansas:

- The employer must be a member in good standing with the McPherson Chamber of Commerce
- Employers must have at least two (2) W-2 employees to qualify. Limited liability companies could qualify based on tax classification- determination by BCBS KS. Visit bcbsks.com/chamberblueks to see if you qualify.
- **Employer MUST participate in the interest survey (August 2022) to be eligible for enrollment.** Initial rates will be determined in September based on groups/businesses that have completed the survey and plans will become effective January 1, 2023.
- Employer to pay at least 25% of the lowest-cost plan option offered.
- Employer must have 70% of eligible employees enroll in group health plan (employees working 30+hrs/week, less those who have group coverage elsewhere x 70%).

Interested business owners, non-profits, and organizations are encouraged to attend an information session at 11:00 am or 1:00 pm on Wednesday, May 25th at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main. The meetings will be less than an hour, but we have scheduled them at 11:00 and 1:00 am to accommodate various schedules. RSVP requested to chamberdirector@mcphersonks.org or 620-241-3303.

Leadership Alumni Lunch and Learn

If you have a passion for automobiles, or you are just curious about the 4- year Auto Restoration Program at McPherson College, join us on Tuesday, May 24th from 11:30-1:00. Sign up for this unique opportunity to tour the auto restoration facility on the McPherson College Campus and learn “cool behind the scenes” information! Cost includes lunch: \$15 for Leadership McPherson Alumni or \$20 for non-alumni. Please RSVP to the McPherson Chamber of Commerce by May 20th by calling 620-241-3303 email chamber@mcphersonks.org, or stop by our office at 306 N. Main, McPherson.



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2021-2022 Chamber Board of Directors

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Kendra Oakes, Peoples Bank & Trust * Courtney Rierson, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd
Eric Wicker, Viega L.L.C. * Lauren Hughes, Wise & Reber L.C.

chamber events

*To view the Community Calendar for McPherson County, visit www.mcphersonchamber.org

May

19 9:30 am. Ribbon Cutting/Chamber Connections for Julie Johnson Studio & Event Center, 110 S. Main
24 11:30-1:00 Leadership Alumni Lunch & Learn @ McPherson College Auto Restoration.
25 11:00 am Chamber Blue of KS informational meeting @ Chamber office
1:00 pm Chamber Blue of KS informational meeting @ Chamber office
26 9:30 am Chamber Connections at Mac-Town CrossFit, 715 W. Woodside
11:30 am Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber

office
30 Memorial Day- Chamber office closed
June
1 12:00 pm Leadership Advisory Committee Mtg. @ Chamber office
2 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ TBD
3 11:30 am Chamber Classic "A Bunch of Hacks" Golf Tournament
9 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ Rise Private Wealth Management, 100 S. Main
14 7:00 am Ag Committee Mtg @ PrairieLand Partners, 2401 E. Northview
4:00 pm Ambassadors Mtg @ Chamber office
16 9:30 am Chamber Connections @ McPherson Eye Care, 1323 E. First St.

"A Bunch of Hacks" Golf Tournament

You want to be a part of the Chamber Classic, but you didn't get your golf team signed up before we reached 36 teams, and your business isn't one of the 18 lucky hole sponsors that still have fun by being on the course? No worries, we have options! Promote your business or organization at the Chamber Classic "A Bunch of Hacks" Golf Tournament with donations of items in increments of 4 to be given out for flight prizes. Think "non-golfer" prizes as this unique tournament may, or may not, involve professional golf teams. Sponsors will be recognized on the Chamber website, tournament program, and social media. Contact the Chamber today at 620-241-3303 or chamber@mcphersonks.org for more information.

We appreciate these terrific sponsors who have already committed to helping us make the Chamber Classic "A Bunch of Hacks" Golf Tournament one of the very best! United Rentals

Luxury Scooter (Golf Cart) Sponsors: Hutton, Peoples Bank, Prairie Landworks, Inc., and Viega

Lunch Sponsor: Reach Solutions

Putting Green Sponsor: Edward Jones- Aaron Mayfield

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- Kansas Secured Title
- Legacy Lawns
- Midway Motors
- Nex-Tech Wireless
- PEM
- Prairie Landworks, Inc.
- Primary Residential Mortgage
- Reach Solutions
- SJH&L
- United Rentals
- Wise & Reber L.C.

Divot Sponsors: (donation of balls, flight prize items, or various sponsorships) Grabers Ace Hardware, Farmers Alliance, PEM, MTC, Sharp Advertising, Three Rings Brewery, and many more to come.

Give the McPherson Chamber a call to today at 620-241-3303. Be sure to check out the pictures and winner announcements in the June Chamber Business Journal.



Leadership McPherson Class Enrollment is Open

This professional development program of the McPherson Chamber has been an impactful program since 1982. The in-depth, educational program focuses on developing leadership competencies, giving participants the skills to move organizations and businesses forward as well as inspiring leaders to become more engaged in the community.

Class participants will jump right in with a team building experience followed by class sessions and activities. The group will participate in the 2-day Your Leadership Edge at the Kansas Leadership Center. They will continue with class sessions and community interaction and complete their Leadership McPherson curriculum by organizing and implementing a class project to benefit the youth in our community.

Leadership McPherson Class enrollment is open to the first 12 to sign up, or the final deadline is June 6. More information and the 2022 Leadership McPherson Class Enrollment Form can be found at www.mcphersonchamber.org.

New United Way Executive Director

These last few weeks have really flown by. I've been enjoying my job as Executive Director for the United Way of McPherson County for almost a month, and I realized that I haven't introduced myself to the wider community. My intent today is to share with you a little about me. Now, being from Western Kansas the idea of talking about myself (or writing) makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

I grew up in Northwest Kansas, in the Bogue/Damar area. Technically I am a Louisianian by birth, but my parents are from Bogue and Damar (communities that are only a few miles apart.) For the first few years of my life my father worked for a company that traveled around the United States. We just so happened to be in Louisiana when I was born.

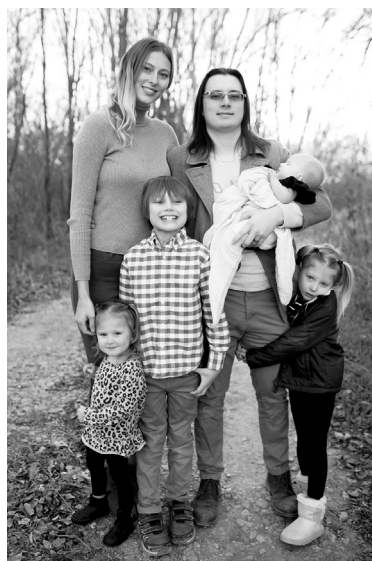
My background is mostly in local government specifically Economic and Community Development. I got my start with a company called Rural Telephone based out of Lenora, Kansas. Today this company is branded Nex-Tech, they recently acquired Moundridge Telephone Company. I spent a summer with Nex-Tech interning in a couple of their departments including in Economic and Community Development.

In 2016 I moved to Ness County to take on the Economic Development Director job there. My time in Ness County was a learning experience. It was the first Economic Development job that I had, and I was pretty much left to my own devices. My time in Ness County was short but I really enjoyed it. It gave me the foundation I needed for my next adventure in Hillsboro.

In June of 2017 I was hired by the City of Hillsboro to be their Economic Development Director. I spent almost 5 years working for the City of Hillsboro. During my time in Hillsboro, I became heavily invested in our local community foundation. I have been the Vice Chair of the Hillsboro Community Foundation (HCF) for 3 years. I also sit on the Central Kansas Community Foundation (CKCF) and have been there for 3 years as well. My focus with the community foundations has been primarily governance/policy related. I have been the chair of the CKCF Governance Committee for a few years. My experience with the community foundations will be beneficial to the United Way.

It was in Hillsboro that I met my wife Ellian, a Hillsboro native. Ellian and I have four kids: Benjamin 9, Elizabeth 7, Zinnia 3, and Dande 8 months. Our youngest Dande was born with Spina Bifida. My wife and I spent many months last year in Kansas City, but I believe we have made it through it. She is otherwise a perfectly healthy 8-month-old.

I have really enjoyed my time with the United Way of McPherson County these past few weeks. Rob Mackey has been a tremendous asset for me during this time. His knowledge of United Way has been a blessing to McPherson County. I would also like to thank the board, they have given me a lot of support in figuring this position out. Please, feel free to stop by my office in the Chamber Building downtown.



Anthony Roy, Executive Director, United Way of McPherson County

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