

Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce notes several recent successes

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- Ed/Glen Chamber President and CEO Desiree Bennyhoff

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is celebrating a successful 2020, proudly serving as the voice of Metro East businesses and striving toward



Bennyhoff

organizational advancement. The chamber continued its effort to advocate for business-friendly legislation, calling on the Governor’s Office to recognize that all businesses are essential and encouraging transparency and accountability from government agencies.

In March of 2019, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation awarded the Ed/Glen Chamber accreditation with five-star distinction, the highest level possible. This recognition signifies the chamber’s commitment to excellence in organizational leadership and adherence to industry best practices. With this rare achievement, the Ed/Glen Chamber is one of seven accredited chambers in Illinois and is now ranked in the top 1.7 percent of chambers of commerce in the country.

Throughout 2019 the Ed/Glen Chamber focused on providing outstanding value and customer service to its members. This was accomplished through the organization’s commitment to

facilitating relationships between business leaders and promoting members to one another and the general public. The chamber has embraced a culture of innovation and in 2019 began the process of detailed data collection and benchmarking to better understand members and serve the business community.

In 2019 the Ed/Glen Chamber President and CEO Desiree Bennyhoff was competitively selected to participate in the third cohort of the U.S. Chamber Foundation’s Business Leads program and was honored as the Brann Award recipient – Illinois Chamber Executive of the Year – by the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (IACCE). In November 2020, the chamber was named Outstanding Illinois Chamber of the Year by IACCE.

Staff leadership and professionalism remain paramount. Bennyhoff serves on the Midwest Institute for Organization Management’s (IOM) board of regents, on IOM’s national curriculum committee, on the Illinois Chamber of Commerce board of directors, and is past chair of IACCE. Membership Director Katie Haas is actively involved with IOM and will graduate from the program in 2022.

“Despite the challenges 2020 brought, I am proud of the high-value services our team was able to deliver to businesses throughout the year. We remain committed to industry best practices, we proudly stand alongside our job-creators as the voice of business, and we believe in setting the standard for organizational excellence at a national level.

“I am thankful for our dedicated board, staff and volunteers for making it all happen.” said Bennyhoff.

Diverse portfolio helps Poettker deal with up and down year

In a year marked as unprecedented, several company milestones and a diverse portfolio of projects have helped Poettker Construction Co. get through the pandemic and achieve another year of exponential growth.

The company’s president, Keith Poettker, credits the long-lasting partnerships Poettker has built for the past 40 years with its clients and partners as keys to the company’s success. “Building relationships to exceed client’s expectations in all aspects of the design and construction process has always been Poettker’s goal to ensure we continue growing the relationship and earning the trust with construction consumers, developers, architects,

engineers, and trade contractors.”

In May 2020, a culmination of those relationships was recognized when Building Design+Construction awarded Poettker a bronze Building Team Award for its new headquarters facility. Heading into the fall, the 40,000-square-foot headquarters celebrated its one-year anniversary, as well as some significant energy efficiencies. In the building’s first year of operation, Poettker reported reducing its energy usage by 75 percent and its carbon footprint by 65 percent. Along with the Poettker headquarters’ sustainability milestone, numerous large-scale projects completed by Poettker were awarded LEED certifications, including facilities at Scott Air

Force Base, the Jefferson Barracks Campus Operations Center, and Pierce Terrace Elementary School in Fort Jackson, S.C.

Named one of the region’s Best Places to Work, the company retained a strong team of construction professionals, and looks forward to strengthening its team in 2021. Focused on safety, the team earned multiple awards from the AGC for outstanding safety performance.

Despite event gathering limitations due to COVID-19, which postponed Poettker’s annual golf tournament for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois, the company encouraged participants to make a special gift that would go directly to one-on-one men-

toring of at-risk children. Poettker also donated tools and construction materials to several local high schools to encourage careers in the construction industry.

This past year, Poettker began construction on several major local projects, including the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine’s new \$11M Advanced Care Clinic, three Planet Fitness health club locations, The Shoppes of Richland Creek development in O’Fallon, Ill., and a tilt-up expansion to R+L Carriers in Sauget. Projects for reoccurring clients such as Ameren, Walmart, Target, local PK-12 Schools, and federal agencies have put Poettker on the path to achieve yet another record-breaking year for its 40th anniversary milestone.