

# Leadership Council holds 40th anniversary ‘Salute to Southwestern Illinois’ awards dinner



Legacy Awards were presented to Ameren Illinois, The Korte Company and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as part of the ‘Salute to Southwestern Illinois’ 40th anniversary celebration hosted by the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois at the end of March. From left are LCSWIL Chairman/President Gary Hoelscher, The Korte Company’s Jay Korte, Patrick Smith from Ameren Illinois, SIUE’s Tim Schoenecker and LCSWIL Executive Director Kyle Anderson. (Courtesy LCSWIL).

The Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois welcomed a capacity crowd of 475 to its recent 2023 Salute to Southwestern Illinois Annual Awards Dinner at the Regency Conference Center in O’Fallon, Ill.

The event celebrated the Leadership Council’s 40th anniversary, honored businesses and communities who are expanding and reinvesting in the region, as well as recognized several of its military partners who have made outstanding innovative contributions to their units.

The night concluded with a presentation by Troy Rutherford from The Boeing Company, sharing progress of the MQ-25 Stingray facility under construction next to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport in St. Clair County.

To mark the Council’s 40th Anniversary, ‘Legacy Award’ presentations were made to Ameren Illinois, The Korte Company, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville – the three entities that came together in 1983 to form the Leadership Council.

Longtime members Bruce Holland, Mike Riley, and Dennis Wilmsmeyer

were each presented with the Presidential Service Award to thank them for their years of service to the organization.

**The following were recipients of 2023 Salute to Southwestern Illinois Awards:**

- Alton Steel, Inc. – Major Reinvestment
- The Boeing Company – St. Clair County Expansion
- Tyson Foods – Caseyville Plant Expansion
- City of Belleville – Economic Development
- Village of Glen Carbon – Economic Development
- St. Clair County – Retention of SAFB C-40s Mission

**Military Partner Awards were also presented to:**

- 375th Air Mobility Wing – TSgt Matthew Sabo
- 932nd Airlift Wing – MSgt Jeffrey McGrath
- 126th Air Refueling Wing – SMSgt David Kosmopolis & MSgt David Wolfe
- 635th Supply Chain Operations Wing – Maj John Vogel
- US Coast Guard – PO Tanner Denaro

# S. M. Wilson recognized as top workplace for women for third consecutive year

## Company recognized as a top workplace for women by the Women’s Foundation of Greater St. Louis

For the third consecutive year, S. M. Wilson & Co. has been recognized by the Women’s Foundation of Greater St. Louis (WFSTL) as a top place for women to work in the annual Women in the Workplace: Employment Scorecard. Honorees of the sixth annual award program were selected based on data submitted about structural efforts and outcomes to advance women through compensation, leadership, flexible work policies, and recruitment and retention initiatives.

S. M. Wilson was recognized as one of 21 St. Louis employers that demonstrate a strong commitment to women in the workplace through measurable outcomes, key policies, and best practices. Currently, 23% of the company’s employees, 32% of leadership and 50% of executive leadership are female, far surpassing the construction industry standard.

“Women have a pivotal role in construction. By incorporating diverse perspectives at all levels, valuing and affirming the lived experiences of people, working together and gaining input from those being directly impacted by decisions, we are changing policies to create more inclusive work environments and advancing innovation in the industry,” said Maggie Farrell, Diversity and Human Resources manager of S. M. Wilson.

The St. Louis-based construction manager launched Wilson Women in the fall of 2019 to provide women in the firm an opportunity for relationship building, community service, mentorship, networking and learning opportunities. The firm continues to develop resources and programs to empower women and promote change through the firm’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

Over the past year, Wilson Women have been recognized for their advancements and achievements in the industry and community, including:



Above: Shown are Emily Echele, Nichole Geiger, and Elaine Eftimoff. (Courtesy S. M. Wilson)

Right: Shown are Jamie Berzon, Joyce Glass, Amanda Bohnert, Rebecca Cornatzer, Kelly Santacruz, Maggie Farrell, and Kim von der Hyde (Courtesy S. M. Wilson)

President Amy Berg was selected as board chair for Wyman Center, a non-profit organization that focuses on empowering teens from economically disadvantaged circumstances to lead successful lives and build strong communities.

Diversity and Human Resources Manager Maggie Farrell was named the 2022 Inclusion Champion by the

St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers and a Hero in Diversity by St. Louis Small Business Monthly.

Chief Marketing Officer Amanda Bohnert co-founded Women of STEEL, a women-centered group within the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) of Missouri with the mission to assist and support women’s professional growth in the construction industry.

Project Manager Emily Echle was named the 2023 Construction Leadership Council Steering Committee Vice Chair for AGC.

WFSTL is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing the economic success of women in the area through workplace change, public policy change, and individual support. For more information, visit [wfstl.org](http://wfstl.org).