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Grow Minnesota! Excels in Business Development

Grow Minnesota! is a winner in the inaugural Progress Minnesota awards sponsored by *Finance & Commerce*. The subsidiary program of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce is conducted with 57 local partners statewide, including the Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce. The private sector initiative is in its ninth year and focuses on business retention and job creation.

The award recognizes individuals, companies, and associations that are driving business and industrial growth and development in Minnesota. Grow Minnesota! and other Progress Minnesota winners will be formally recognized April 11.

“We share this award with our 57 local partners across the state,” said Bill Blazar, senior vice president of public affairs and business development at the Minnesota Chamber. “They are at the foundation of our successes.”

Grow Minnesota! had another impressive year. More than 400 business volunteers assisted staff at local chambers and private sector economic development organizations in conducting nearly 1,000 one-on-one conversations with owners or top management of companies. The program is earning a reputation for connecting individual businesses with the proper private and public resources to address their specific challenges. Last year Grow Minnesota! provided one-on-one assistance to 122 businesses that resulted in protecting 4,900 jobs.

“The Minnesota Chamber truly has a two-pronged strategy for building the state’s economy,” Blazar said. “We’re still working to strengthen the statewide business climate. Plus, we’re rolling up our sleeves to help companies one at a time. We’re seeing results on both fronts.”

Local businesses interested in a Grow Minnesota! visit should contact the Thief River Falls Chamber at 681-3720 or contact@trfchamber.com.

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