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Small Communities. Big Improvements.



Missouri Community Betterment Educational Fund, Inc.

HOUSTON TOPS COMMUNITY BETTERMENT AWARDS

October 16, 2017

Twenty-three communities, 11 youth groups and 8 community leaders were honored at the Missouri Community Betterment (MCB) Conference in Columbia. The 54th annual conference included speakers from the Missouri Department of Economic Development, University of Missouri Extension, as well as keynote speakers Deb Brown with Saveyour.town; Jeff & Carolina Neal, pioneers in the revitalization of Joplin's downtown; Dr. Sean Siebert, innovation consultant from Cuba, MO; Kyle Scheele, motivational speaker, and Mark Kempker, "Bringing the HEET" a multi-pronged approach to addressing heroine usage. Missouri Community Betterment assists communities in their efforts to improve their quality of life through community and economic development efforts. Nearly 200 volunteers, community leaders and youth from across the state were in attendance.

Houston won the Gene Speichinger Community of the year award. This award recognizes the outstanding community among the 23 communities entered in this year's Awards program. MCB judges and Board members were impressed with Houston's outstanding ability to utilize various community members' strengths to accomplish their goals through strategic planning and attention to detail as well as a combined vision. The project's impact will be

longstanding and benefit all ages within the community as well as those visiting Houston.

"The Missouri Community Betterment Board congratulates all the volunteers from our communities all throughout the state," MCB President Louis Riggs said. "These dedicated individuals and their collaborative community and economic development efforts continue to make Missouri's rural communities a place people want to call home."

The Monday evening Awards Banquet is an integral part of the MCB program, which is administered by the Missouri Community Betterment Educational Fund. MCBEF is a not-for-profit organization made up of businesses, public utilities, community representatives, federal and state agencies and individuals. From 2008-2017 MCB communities poured more than \$431,889,085 back into their local economies through their community development projects.

Following is a list of the community and individual award winners

Gene Speichinger Community of the Year Award -- Houston

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Community Awards

Category I

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First Place: Galena
Second Place: Howardville
Third Place: Caledonia
Fourth Place: Allendale
Fifth Place: Cainsville

Category II

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First Place: Hopkins
Second Place: Lowry City
Third Place: Urich
Fourth Place: Annapolis
Fifth Place: Green City

Category III

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First Place: Albany
Second Place: Reeds Spring
Third Place: Mansfield
Fourth Place: Steelville

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Category IV

- First Place: Houston
Second Place: Lathrop
Third Place: St. James
Fourth Place: Fayette
Fifth Place: Buffalo

Category V

- First Place: Lamar
Second Place: Perryville
Third Place: Salem
Fourth Place: Cameron

Ambassador Award -- Judy Apperson, Salem

Adult Leadership Award

- Cameron: Mary Jo Eiberger
Lamar: Paulette Orahood
Louisiana: Ann Narramore
Salem: Marilyn Sweitzer

J.C. Smith Youth Group of the Year Award -- Steelville

Youth Groups

Category I

- First Place: Galena
Second Place: Caledonia

Category III

- First Place: Steelville
Second Place: Mansfield
Certificate of Merit: Reeds Spring

Category IV

- First Place: Fayette
Second Place: Houston
Certificate of Merit: St. James

Category V

First Place: Lamar
Second Place: Cameron
Third Place: Perryville

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Youth Leadership Award

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Lamar: Kelsie Morgan
Louisiana: Michelle Watts
Salem: Jacob Stotler
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CONGRATULATIONS to All MCB Communities!

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