



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce achieves 5-Star Accreditation

St. Cloud, Minn. - The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce was awarded 5-Star Accreditation for the third consecutive time by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The accreditation recognizes the St. Cloud Area Chamber's sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community. The Chamber remains in the top two percent of all chambers in the nation who are Accredited and one of only two Minnesota chambers to hold the 5-Star distinction.

The St. Cloud Area Chamber was commended for maintaining 92 percent average member retention over the past three years. Additional special recognitions include:

- Excellent job of recognizing the work of its volunteers.
- Establishing itself as an advocate for the business community in the region, as well as the state.
- Achieving perfect scores in program development, technology, human resources and facilities.

"Our members regularly tell us we are one of the best, most active chambers they have ever experienced," Chamber President Teresa Bohnen said. "This recognition proves the St. Cloud area business community continues to be one of the strongest in the nation and is a direct result of efforts of our dedicated, committed volunteers."

Accreditation is the only national program that recognizes chambers for their effective procedures and community involvement. Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars, or 5-Stars. The final determination is made by the Accrediting Board, a committee of the U.S. Chamber board of directors.

"The Accreditation designation tells chamber members as well as the greater business community, this is an organization that has effective programs, sound finances, and is a strong advocate for their interests," said Raymond P. Towle, U.S. Chamber vice president of Federation Relations and Institute for Organization Management.

In order to receive Accreditation, a chamber must meet stringent standards in their operations and programs, including areas of governance, government affairs, and technology. This extensive self-review can take 6-9 months to complete.

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in Central Minnesota. Supported and led by members and a professional staff, we create, enhance and support a healthy business environment for our members.

-Chamber-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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