

Honoree videos:

2018 Honoree Videos

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| Securian Financial (4:57) | St. Paul | https://vimeo.com/268628322 |
| Telisha Madison (4:23) | Duluth | https://vimeo.com/268633017 |
| The Coleman Company (4:23) | Sauk Rapids | https://vimeo.com/268631068 |
| Frank Murillo (4:31) | Minneapolis | https://vimeo.com/268630305 |

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winners Announced in 2018 Minnesota Job Honor Awards

Initiative aims to employ disadvantaged jobseekers by celebrating “A New Kind of Hero”

ST PAUL — The Minnesota Job Honor Awards, an initiative aimed at recognizing Minnesotans who have overcome barriers to employment, has announced its top honorees for 2018.

The awards were presented in partnership with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce at their “Workforce Solutions Forum” on May 9 in Minneapolis. Business leaders from across the state assembled to witness the ceremony, in which biographical videos described honoree efforts to win life-changing jobs.

One of this year’s success stories is Telisha Madison of Duluth. After growing up in a succession of foster homes while her mother was in prison, Madison overcame poverty and homelessness to build a successful career with Center City Housing, a Duluth nonprofit. “Every day I look at my son and say ‘We’re going to have our own home,’” says Madison, “We will never be homeless again.” Her manager, Kira Kallberg, says “Telisha has had every reason not to succeed, and she did it anyway. And she’s still doing it.”

Frank Murillo of Eden Prairie was honored for his work at General Mills’ headquarters in Minneapolis. Diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, a form of autism, Murillo was dedicated to finding meaningful employment. “Some jobs are menial, and many people get bored doing the same thing over and over again,” says Murillo, “People with disabilities, some of them like to do those repetitive tasks.” With the help of Opportunity Partners, a nonprofit provider of support services for people with disabilities, Murillo found an ideal match in the mail room and document scanning center at General Mills. “We’re a company that values inclusiveness,” says Erin Dunn, Director of Global Business and Employee Services at General Mills, “Frank displays all the qualities that we look for in any employee: he’s trustworthy, enthusiastic, and a good team player.”

Two Minnesota companies were recognized for their inclusive hiring practices. Securian Financial Group in St. Paul was honored for their longstanding commitment to hire disadvantaged candidates, including people with disabilities. They partner with Lifeworks Services, a nonprofit serving people with disabilities

Minnesota Job Honor Awards

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in the Twin Cities and greater Mankato area. “Securian is a leader. They’ve been doing this for a long time,” says Lifeworks CEO & President Jeffrey Brown, “Our history with Securian goes back about a quarter of a century. They want to make a difference in their community, and they want to make a difference in people's lives. I have huge respect for that.”

The Coleman Company, Inc. in Sauk Rapids was honored for their role in a new program that provides education and occupational training for young adult refugees. The initiative was launched through a community partnership between employment and training agency Career Solutions and Central Minnesota Adult Basic Education in St. Cloud. Participants have reached age 21 — the maximum age for attending public K-12 schools — before earning enough credits to graduate with a high school diploma. The new CareerONE program hosted by Coleman provides training to increase literacy while simultaneously building work readiness skills. “It was nice to see a company in St. Cloud that was willing to reach out to those students, and make a commitment to providing education and work experience,” says Mandi Schneider, classroom instructor for adult education. Jamal Alimad, a Somali elder serving as volunteer mentor in the initiative, describes the program as life-changing. “Coleman gave opportunity to those kids. As refugees we lost everything that was dear to us. This program helps them achieve what they lost.”

Lead sponsor of the Minnesota Job Honor Awards is ManpowerGroup. Launched in Iowa in 2014, the awards are expanding nationally under the banner of America’s Job Honor Awards.

About the Minnesota Job Honor Awards:

The Minnesota Job Honor Awards celebrates Minnesotans who overcome barriers to employment, and the employers who hire them. MN-JHA’s mission is to rekindle hope and energize the work ethic across Minnesota, through the celebration of a new kind of hero. www.JobHonor.org. Lead sponsor of the Awards is **ManpowerGroup**, world leader in innovative workforce solutions.

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