



Visitor Industry Luncheon- Past Award Recipients

2025

- First Impression – Attraction: [Sarah Burman, McCrossan Boys Ranch](#)
- First Impression – Hotel: [Cindy Schieck, Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel](#)
- First Impression – Restaurant: [Deb Cooper, Minervas](#)
- First Impression – Retail: [Jade Sandersfeld, Hertz Rent-a-Car](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Levitt at the Falls](#)
- Business Award: [Sanford Sports Complex](#)
- Star Award: [Lloyd Companies and The Steel District](#)

2024

- First Impression – Attraction: [Allison Weiland, State Theatre](#)
- First Impression – Hotel: [Trisha Lux, Glo Best Western](#)
- First Impression – Restaurant: [Lynette Ingalls, 22TEN Kitchen Cocktails](#)
- First Impression – Retail: [Kelly Woldt, Simply Perfect](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Jon Thum, Chief of Police, Sioux Falls](#)
- Business Award: [Washington Pavilion](#)
- Special Award: [Alex Jensen, Retiring City Councilor](#)
- Special Award: [Pat Starr, Retiring City Councilor](#)
- Special Award: [Marshall Selberg, Retiring City Councilor](#)
- Special Award: [Greg Neitzert, Retiring City Councilor](#)

2023

- First Impression – Attraction: [Dave Oswald, DTSF Green & Clean Team](#)
- First Impression – Attraction: [Martin Dill, DTSF Green & Clean Team](#)
- First Impression – Hotel: [Val Carman, ClubHouse Hotel & Suites](#)
- First Impression – Restaurant: [Dawn Wynthein, The Original Pancake House](#)
- First Impression – Retail: [Greg Koch, 605 Running Company](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Jeff Scherschligt](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Craig & Pat Lloyd](#)
- Business Award: [Riccardo & Marybeth Tarabelsi](#)

2022

- First Impression – Attraction: [Allyson Kasch, Washington Pavilion](#)
- First Impression – Hotel: [Zane Lodmell, Hampton Inn Sioux Falls](#)
- First Impression – Restaurant: [Stevie Zeller, Look's Marketplace](#)
- First Impression – Retail: [Stacey and Leslie Malmgren, Love Marlow](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Jackie Tuschen, Avera](#)
- Business Award: [Thunder Road](#)

2019

- First Impressions Award: [Tyler Larson, Holiday Inn City Centre](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Mike Cooper \(Ret.\), City of Sioux Falls](#)
- Business Award: [The Outdoor Campus](#)

2018

- First Impressions Award: [Julie Coleman, Best Western PLUS Ramkota Hotel](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Frank Gurnick, Dakota Alliance Soccer Club](#)
- Business Award: [Wes Eisenhauer Photography](#)
- Special Star Award: [Pheasant Fest](#)
- Special Award: [Rex Rolwing, Retiring City Councilor](#)
- Special Award: [Michelle Erpenbach, Retiring City Councilor](#)
- Special Award: [Mayor Mike Huether, Retiring Mayor](#)
- Special Award: [Governor Dennis Daugaard, Retiring Governor](#)

2017

- First Impressions Award: [Butch Reinesch, Sanford Health](#)
- Heart of the City Award: [Thea Miller Ryan, The Outdoor Campus](#)
- Business Award: [Fernson Brewing Company](#)
- Media Award: [Argus Leader/Sioux Falls Business Journal, Keloland, KDLT, KSFY, KTTW, Life 96.5, Midco Sports Network, Midwest Communications, Results Radio, Sioux Falls.Business, and South Dakota Public Broadcasting](#)
- Special Star Award: [Evan Nolte, former President & CEO of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce](#)

2016

- First Impressions Award: **Don South, Strawbale Winery**
- Heart of the City Award: **Cindy Walsh and Tom Walsh, Sr., Dakota King/GreatLIFE**
- Business Award: **CH Patisserie, Chris Hanmer**
- Media Award: **Jack Taylor, KELO Radio**
- Special Star Award: **Tom Douple, Summit League Commissioner**
- Special Star Award: **The 2016 Augustana Men's Basketball Team**

2015

- First Impressions Award: **Brenda Dinsmore, Bagel Boy**
- Heart of the City Award: **Terry Torkildson, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center**
- Business Award: **Sioux Falls People for Youth**
- Media Award: **Cory Myers, Argus Leader**

2014

- First Impressions Award: **Tracy Kolb, Hampton Inn**
- Heart of the City Award: **Dan Radigan, KarmelKorn, Dairy Queen, Orange Julius**
- Business Award: **Scheels All Sports**
- Media Award: **Results Radio/Townsquare Media**
- Special Award: **Jim Entenman, Retiring City Councilor**
- Special Award: **Sue Aguilar, Retiring City Councilor**
- Special Award: **Carol Nugteren, Retiring CVB Registration Staff**

2013

- First Impressions Award: **Stephanie Ovall, Sioux Falls Convention Center**
- Heart of the City Award: **Jan Grunewaldt, Best Western PLUS Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center**
- Business Award: **Josh Thomas, Eastway Bowl**
- Media Award: **Jodi Schwan, Sioux Falls Business Journal**
- Special Award: **Chad McKenzie, Results Radio/TownSquare Media**
- Special Award: **Jerry Dahmen, Results Radio/TownSquare Media**

2012

- First Impressions Award: **Jesse Johnson, Red Roof Inn**
- Heart of the City Award: **Jim Woster**
- Business Award: **Sertoma Butterfly House & Marine Cove**
- Media Award: **Rob Swenson, Sioux Falls Argus Leader/Business Journal - retired**
- Special Award: **Vernon Brown, former Sioux Falls City Councilor**

2011

- First Impressions Award: **Tony Kranz, National Car Rental**
- Heart of the City Award: **Carole Pagones**
- Business Award: **Siouxland Heritage Museums**
- Media Award: **Argus Leader**

2010

- First Impressions Award: **Dominique Campagna, Comfort Inn South**
- Heart of the City Award: **Tim & Nancy Nicolai, Arena Motel**
- Business Award: **Great Plains Zoo & Delbridge Museum of Natural History**
- Media Award: **Lloyd Cunningham, Argus Leader (retired)**
- Special "Star" Award: **University of Sioux Falls Football Team (for bringing national recognition to the city of Sioux Falls)**

2009

- First Impressions Award: **Glenn Winningham, Homewood Suites**
- Heart of the City Award: **Jim Clark, SculptureWalk**
- Business Award: **Sioux Falls Jazz & Blues Society**
- Media Award: **Results Radio/Cumulus Media**
- Great Partner Award: **Mayor Dave Munson, Dykhouse/First Premier Bank & Kelby Krabbenhoft, Sanford Health**

2008

- First Impressions Award: **Joy Ehlers, The Empire Mall**
- Heart of the City Award: **Jim Entenman, J & L Harley-Davidson**
- Business Award: **J & L Harley-Davidson**
- Media Award: **Jerry Dahmen, KXRB Radio**
- Great Partner Award: **Bob Jamison, Retiring City Councilor**
- *Special Recognition Plaque:* **Sanaa's 8th Street Gourmet was recognized for being South Dakota's first certified "Green Restaurant"**

2007

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: **Brian Johnson, Fairfield Inn**
- Friend of Tourism Award: **Thea Miller Ryan, The Outdoor Campus**
- Sioux Falls Most Visitor Friendly Business Award: **Washington Pavilion of Arts & Science**
- Media Award: **Rob Swensen, Sioux Falls Business Journal**

2006

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: **Bernie Larson, Holiday Inn City Centre**
- Friend of Tourism Award: **Russ DeCurtins, SMG Sioux Falls Arena**
- Sioux Falls Most Visitor Friendly Business Award: **Holiday Inn Express**

- Media Award: [Chad McKenzie, KSOO Results Radio/Cumulus Media](#)
- Great Partner Award: [Rich Murphy, City of Sioux Falls](#)

2005

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: [Cathy Zepeda, Washington Pavilion of Arts & Science](#)
- Friend of Tourism Award: [Sioux Falls Police Department](#)
- Sioux Falls Most Visitor Friendly Business Award: [Thunder Road Family Fun Park](#)
- Media Award: [KSFY TV](#)

2004

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: [Rick Albrecht, Homewood Suites](#)
- Friend of Tourism Award: [Mayor Dave Munson](#)
- Sioux Falls Most Visitor Friendly Business Award: [Wild Water West Waterpark](#)
- Media Award: [Midcontinent Radio](#)

2003

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: [Robert Norro, Sheraton Hotel/ Sioux Falls Convention Center](#)
- Friend of Tourism Award: [Tom Bosch, Holiday Inn City Centre](#)
- Sioux Falls Most Visitor Friendly Business Award: [J & L Harley-Davidson](#)

2002

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: [Nelva Vander Plaats, Holiday Inn Express](#)
- Friend of Tourism Award: [Sylvia Henkin](#)
- Most Creative "National Tourism Week Promotion" Award: [Sheraton Hotel](#)

2001

- Outstanding Service Award to a Front-Line Employee: [Val Carman, Best Western Ramkota Hotel](#)
- Friend of Tourism Award: [Don McLaughlin, The Empire Mall](#)
- Most Creative "National Tourism Week Promotion" Award: [Best Western Ramkota Hotel](#)