



NEWS RELEASE

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SAINT PAUL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2009 H.E.R.B.I.E. AWARD WINNERS

(SAINT PAUL, MINN., April 3, 2009) – The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation today announced its selection of Mary Mackbee and Amherst H. Wilder Foundation as winners of the 2009 HERBIE award. Recipients will be honored at the Tenth Annual Charitable Foundation Luncheon on June 10, 2009.

“We are exceptionally proud to honor Ms. Mackbee and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation for their tremendous contributions to the community,” said Joan Pennington, chair of the Foundation Board. “Their tireless dedication to improving lives in the east metro embodies the very spirit of the HERBIE award.”

Now in its sixth year, the HERBIE award recognizes individuals and businesses that exemplify the traits inspired by its namesake, Herb Brooks: Humanitarian, Enterprising, Resilient, Bold, Inspiration and Ethical. Each year, two winners are selected by the Chamber’s Foundation Board.

Mary Mackbee has served as principal at St. Paul Central High School since 1993. Mackbee’s long-standing commitment to student success in her professional and personal lives made her an exceptional choice for the HERBIE award. She has or is currently serving on the boards of the Bloomington YMCA, Face to Face, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater St. Paul. Among other awards and honors, Mackbee received the 2007 Woman of Distinction Award from Century College and the 2008 Inspiration Award from International Baccalaureate of North America.

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides services to vulnerable populations in the greater Saint Paul area. The Foundation Board selected the Wilder Foundation for its exceptional commitment to the community and core urban area for more than a century. Each year, the \$225 million Wilder Endowment fund provides about \$50 million in resources to serve the east metro community. The organization's founder, Mr. Wilder, was involved in the establishment of Saint Paul's oldest enterprises, including the St. Paul Companies (now Travelers) and 1st National Bank (now US Bank).

The Charitable Foundation is the non-profit arm of Minnesota's largest local chamber of commerce. The organization strives to "Build Scholars, Leaders and Communities" by bringing business resources and community opportunities together. The Foundation advocates for scholarships, mentorships, and leadership to help the business community meet workforce challenges.

For more information about the Foundation or the HERBIE award, please contact Foundation and Education Director Bev Fritz at 651.265.2768.

About the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

The SPACC is a vital, dynamic force serving the business community through the collective strength of its members. For more than 150 years, the Chamber has provided vibrant programs, powerful advocacy and results that foster member growth. With nearly 2,000 members, the SPACC is the largest local chamber in Minnesota.

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