



BARREN INC.

Barren County Chamber of Commerce

Your Partner for Business Growth

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For Immediate Release

BARREN INC. ANNOUNCES & RECOGNIZES AWARD RECIPIENTS AT THE INAUGURAL ACHIEVEMENT IN BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON

Glasgow, KY. (May 5th, 2022)-Today Barren Inc. the Barren County Chamber of Commerce held their inaugural Achievement in Business Awards Luncheon and announced their 2022 Administrative Professional of the Year, Farmer of the Year, and Small Business of the Year. Additionally, their previously announced Magnolia Award recipient and their Small Business Person of the Year each provided a keynote address and were presented with their official awards. This event was created by the Chamber to show appreciation and to honor the local small business community.

The Administrative Professional of the Year award sponsored by Barren County Business Supply recognizes an administrative professional that goes above and beyond in his/her job duties. Administrative and executive assistants are often the ones doing the behind the scenes work, ordering supplies to run efficiently, keeping the business schedule, and they are often the first point of contact for customers. Kimberly Glass with Glass Holdings, LLC was named as the 2022 Administrative Professional of the Year for Barren Inc. "Kim is special on many levels and does so much for me and my team", said Larry Glass with Glass Holdings. Lisa Dreher with Barren County Business Supply presented Kim with her award at the luncheon.

Next the Chamber announced their Farmer of the Year award sponsored by Glasgow Southern States Co-Op. Local Farmers are an essential part of the Barren County community. The farmers in our community not only provide fresh foods to area families, but they also create jobs and aid in stimulating the local economy. This Year Bill Davis & Sons was recognized as the 2022 Farmer of the Year. Chris Schalk with the Extension Office presented them with their award.

The next award announced was the Small Business of the Year award sponsored by German American Bank. Local small businesses with fewer than 500 employees account for 99.7% of all US employers, and

generate \$68.00 of local economic return for every \$100.00 spent, and Barren Inc. wanted to create an award to show appreciation for all of their local small businesses. This year Phillips IGA was named as the 2022 Small Business of the Year. Phillip's is a downtown staple in Hiseville, and they recently completed a renovation and expansion that increased their total business space from 3,000 to 8,000 square feet. Karisa Peterson with German American Bank presented Mike & Trevor Phillips with the award.

The Magnolia award sponsored by Houchens Industries recognizes a female leader who demonstrates excellence in the Barren County community. This year the Magnolia Award went to Sonya Davis with the Barren County Board of Education. "Sonya, like a magnolia tree, has produced a mighty system of roots that have created a strong foundation for the community," said CheyAnne Fant who nominated Sonya for this award. Sonya is a local leader in workforce development where she has spearheaded the development of the first apprenticeship program in early child care, that has put 8 local high school students in a nationally registered apprenticeship program in the Barren Beyond the Bell Afterschool & Childcare Centers. Sonya also serves in the community through her board position with the Boys & Girls Club, and by co-leading the BC Reads and Feeds program, a community project that helps raise money for weekend meal bags, books and educational materials for local families.

The next award announced was the Small Business Person of the Year sponsored by The Peoples Bank. This award recognizes a local business owner who demonstrates excellence in entrepreneurship and operating a successful small business. This year Danny Williams with Fine Arts Bistro was announced as the 2022 Small Business Person of the Year. Danny was nominated by Kellie McKay with Commonwealth Broadcasting. "During the pandemic shut downs Danny was able to pivot and reinvent his entire business process in order to keep the majority of his full time employees and keep his business open, all while providing delicious take home meals to the community" said McKay. Danny is not only business savvy, but is also an avid supporter of the community he lives in. He uses local vendors and products for his restaurant, supports local artists by providing them a space to display their work, and recently donated plastic utensils and serving wear to volunteers that provided soup and meals to individuals affected by the tornados.

Community leaders and small businesses play a vital role in creating a thriving community. Barren County is fortunate to be in a region where there is a bountiful supply of leaders and where local businesses are embraced and supported by the community. "All of our award winners today are strong assets to Barren County and our Chamber. Individuals and members like them help lead our community forward and provide a positive impact to our region," said Chamber President & CEO Maureen Carpenter.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Barren Inc. the Barren County Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a special thanks to all of the Achievement in Business Award sponsors. Award sponsors included Houchens Industries-Magnolia Award, The Peoples Bank-Small Business Person of the Year, Barren County Business Supply-Administrative Professional of the Year, Southern States Glasgow Co-Op-Farmer of the Year, and German American Bank-Small Business of the Year. Gold Level sponsors included AtCorr Packaging, Incentive Compliance Services, and First Care Clinics. Silver Level sponsors included Farmers RECC and Keller Williams-Dwayne Pierce.

Bronze Level sponsors included Barren Beyond the Bell, Don Franklin, and Don Franklin of Glasgow. The printing sponsor for the event was Gerald Printing.

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About Barren Inc. The Barren County Chamber of Commerce:

The purpose of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote business & community growth and development by offering programs designed to strengthen and expand the income potential of all businesses within our trade area. The Chamber is the first place that people contact for information, we welcome new business, residents and visitors to our community with open arms. We provide assistance to businesses through arranging ribbon cutting ceremonies, hosting events, offering business roundtable discussions, and more. Our goal is to provide a variety of ways to get involved for those who want to make a difference. We want our brand to embody synergy, modernization, and alignment. With the consolidation of the Barren County Economic Authority and the Chamber of Commerce, we are still separate entities but share a common vision for the community. We strive to create two-way relationships with our members, offer diverse opportunities for our team, promote open communication with all of our stakeholders, and focus on strengthening our economy and growing our community as one.

To learn more about Barren Inc., visit www.barreninc.com.