

The **Lake County Chamber Alliance** annually recognizes individuals whose, dedication, self-less service and commitment have made a difference in our community. The award categories are listed below along with a description of the contributions that an outstanding nominee would have given to the community.

Arts/Culture: An individual whose personal or professional activities in the cultural arts have contributed to the enrichment of Lake County. This award acknowledges and celebrates the role individual artists, art educators, cultural organizations, businesses and philanthropists play in public/private partnerships.

Sports/Athletics: A person or organization that has achieved in sports through performance or in promotion of athletic events in Lake County. This award underscores the value of sports/athletics in the development of critical life skills like leadership, teamwork, commitment, perseverance and time management.

Education: An employed, elected or volunteer educator who has shown innovation and dedication to public or private schools in Lake County. This award recognizes the importance of educational leadership to facilitate improvement and effect positive change, though setting a vision, encouraging teamwork and empowering others to perform and excel.

Leadership: An individual whose guidance and leadership has impacted Lake County. This award celebrates an individual who exhibits forward thinking, motivation, interpersonal skills, honesty and integrity and the ability to learn and adapt. This leader is willing to put in the time and effort towards service for the greater good.

Public Service: An outstanding elected or employed official of state, county or city government, or a volunteer who has made contributions to improving Lake County's quality of life. This award honors value-based leadership, service to others and the ability to bring people together to move forward on priorities.

Humanitarian: An individual whose volunteer activities have improved the quality of life in Lake County. The recipient of this award is someone who helps people survive crisis, recover from disaster, and help build back stronger than before. This individual exhibits empathy while helping people to believe in themselves and acts as a change agent to develop the capacity to transform lives and communities.

Public Safety: An individual who has demonstrated superior performance in their career and shown a commitment to better Lake County through community involvement. This includes those persons in Lake County in the careers of law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services and emergency management. This award recognizes an individual who values and works towards strong community relationships to effect change and insure everyone's safety.

Entrepreneur: An entrepreneur is an individual who starts and runs a business with limited resources and planning, taking account of all the unknown risks and rewards. The business idea is usually a new innovation, product or service rather than an existing business model. Entrepreneurs dream big and come up with ideas that have not been tested, diagnosed or worked through. Entrepreneurs embrace risk, think ahead and want to grow with the idea of scaling and moving on to something else.

Small Business: (1 – 11 Employees) This award recognizes a small business that has successfully established their target audience, filled a community need with established products and/or services, networked with customers, delivered excellent customer service and managed employees to keep things moving steadily forward. While entrepreneurs look for the risky new ideas, small business owners hold the economy together.

Medium Business: (12 – 39 Employees) This award recognizes a business that has successfully grown and met the challenges of cash, increased borrowing and resource management. The recipient of this award has weathered the storm of competition, has adapted to ever-changing marketing and customer loyalty, is adept at problem solving and risk management and has found the right staff to be able to grow. This business exhibits integrity in the face of moral challenges that face the business world today.

Large Business: (40 + Employees) The recipient of this award is well established and has successfully faced all of the challenges of the small and medium business. In addition, through strategic planning and partnerships the large business has a diverse market and customer base, understands and adheres to the laws and regulations of large businesses and employs large numbers of people. The large business recipient often serves as a mentor to other businesses and/or consults with local entities on the growth and increased employment opportunities.

Hall of Fame Business Award: This honor is the highest award given to an individual /business for their lifetime achievements in promoting and advancing the economic climate in Lake County. The recipient has demonstrated leadership qualities in their profession or community or has been recognized by their peers for outstanding contributions.

Youth Award: This award recognizes a Lake County Student, under the age of 21, for their efforts in and outside of school. Through participation in school clubs, leadership programs, summer camps or community service projects, this individual makes an impact on their school and/or community.