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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local organizations named Employers of Excellence

*12 winners from Dakota and Scott counties*

The Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board has recognized 12 area organizations as Employers of Excellence for their employee retention, compensation and training practices. The Workforce Development Board wanted to recognize some of the best employers in Dakota and Scott counties and provide vital information to companies about the practices they use to attract and retain employees. With the help of local sponsors, the board commissioned a study and asked area employers to participate. This year, 29 organizations took part.

Each participant completed a 40-question survey that allowed their employment practices to be analyzed by a consulting firm. Every organization participating in the survey received a 20-page report detailing the information on their company and the results of the survey. Employers were evaluated on numerous metrics: turnover, rate of growth, promotion rates, employee evaluations and feedback, percentage of employee injured, diversity of management, benefits offered, training expenditures, paid days off, and increase in pay.

The Employers of Excellence were recognized at a banquet on Thursday, Sept. 27. The winners are:

### **Small Employer (under 75 employees)**

- Carlson Capital Management, Hastings
- Custom Drapery and Blinds by Esch, LLC, Burnsville
- Hydra-Flex, Inc., Eagan
- Reese Enterprises, Inc., Rosemount

### **Mid-Size Employer (75–200 employees)**

- Dakota Electric Association, Farmington
- Firefly Credit Union, Burnsville
- The Smead Manufacturing Company, Hastings
- Apothecary Products, LLC, Burnsville

### **Large Employer (over 200 employees)**

- Entrust Datacard, Shakopee
- Lifeworks Services, Inc., Eagan
- Prime Therapeutics, Eagan
- UTC Aerospace Systems, Burnsville

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