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# News

Macomb County Executive  
Mark A. Hackel



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## Planning & Economic Development

### *For Immediate Release*

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## **Macomb Business Awards winners announced**

Business leaders from across the region attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Macomb Business Awards today at Mirage Elegant Banquet and Catering Center in Clinton Township. Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel joined Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development leaders John Paul Rea and Vicky Rad to recognize the following award winners:

### **Champion of Workforce Development - St. John Providence**

Up to half of nurses who start working at a hospital leave within the first two years. To address this, St. John Providence developed a two-week orientation program held at the Regional Onboarding Center at the St. John Corporate Services building in Warren. The comprehensive process integrates experiential learning and deliberate practice to develop more competent and confident nurses in less time while increasing satisfaction, increasing retention and improving patient outcomes.

### **Corporate Citizen - First State Bank**

Whether it is a local community's fireworks celebration, scholarships for students, new clock towers, food drives or summer concerts, chances are likely that First State Bank is a sponsor. Founded in 1917 in Macomb County, FSB celebrated its bicentennial by ramping up its community reach by recognizing "good people doing great things." It awarded \$5,000 donations to six local charities and empowered employees to get involved by offering paid days to volunteer and the ability to designate a \$100 gift to a favorite charity. During their anniversary week, staff members from all 11 local branches were provided with a budget to perform random acts of kindness throughout the community. To cap off the year, they held a customer appreciation event and fundraiser featuring Wynonna Judd at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. The event raised \$32,000 for Macomb Community College.

### **Diversification Leader - RCO Engineering, Inc.**

For 44 years, RCO Engineering has made Macomb its home, bringing customers' ideas to the market from concept through production. Family-owned, RCO designs, builds, tests and produces components and prototypes for the world's leading automotive, aerospace and defense industry brands. In recent years, RCO diversified by becoming a low-volume parts provider to meet global demand and added 150,000 square feet to its campus. RCO is a proven provider of plastic, sheet metal, composite, foam and soft trim tooling and parts. It also provides staffing services for long-term technical positions at several OEMs and Tier-1s. RCO is soon to become the first North American supplier with an FAA certified 3D-printing process for production aerospace components.

### **Model of OneMacomb - AGS Automotive**

AGS Automotive has more than 60 years of experience in the automotive parts industry. It is a full-service supplier with more than 450 employees at three locations in Sterling Heights. In 2013, AGS partnered with Michigan Staffing and Macomb Community College on hiring and training initiatives and established a diverse workforce that includes Iraqi refugees. AGS believes in promoting within, and since many employees do not speak English, AGS translates documents, offers English as a Second Language classes on-site and has hired a full-time translator to work in the Human Resource Department. AGS also partners with the Judson Center's disability services program which helps adults with intellectual and physical disabilities find independence and inclusion in the community by providing meaningful employment.

#### **Startup Business to Watch - Rose-A-Lee Technologies**

Rose-A-Lee Technologies was formed in 2013 by sisters Patricia Lopez and Jennifer Howard and is EDWOSB and ISO 9001 certified. Rose-A-Lee provides expert engineering and prototype manufacturing for a range of industries including defense, automation, automotive and consumer goods. In 2016, Rose-A-Lee purchased two vertical mills and a CNC lathe to keep up with orders as a Prime and Tier 1 supplier to the US government. At the end of 2017, the company quadrupled its footprint and now occupies 20,000 square feet in Sterling Heights. They recently hired three new employees and anticipate a need five additional five to keep up with recent contracts.

#### **Economic Development Partner of the Year - 127<sup>th</sup> Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base**

Selfridge Air National Guard Base celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2018. An integral part of our community, Selfridge employs thousands of people and plays an important role in protecting our nation's freedom. Over the last decade, the Department of Planning & Economic Development has worked closely with Brigadier General John D. "Odie" Slocum and base leadership to head off a potential closure, prepare to be evaluated as one of five bases considered to home the new F-35 Fighter Jet, to welcoming tens of thousands of people for the semi-annual and always thrilling Air Shows.

Fox 2 Detroit's Huel Perkins and Charlie Langton served as co-emcees. Cheryl Carrier, executive director for Ford Next Generation Learning presented "Buy, Borrow or Build – How will you find your Future Workforce?" as the keynote address.

The event was sponsored by Automation Alley, Clark Construction Company, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals, Jarvis Property Restoration and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with support from First State Bank, Omega HR, the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber and many others.

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