

Chamber awards citizen, Small Business Person of the Year

BY LAUREN DUNCAN
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Two local residents have been honored by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce as the recipients of its 2010 Small Business Person of the Year and Citizen of the Year awards.

The recipients were chosen from nominations received from members of the community, and were measured based on areas including community service, leadership, tenacity, innovation and growth. The winners were reviewed by members of the Small Business Council and Past Presidents Council and were announced Wednesday by JCCC



SMALL BUSINESS PERSON — Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Brandon Bullard, LEFT, awards Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Manager Chris Collins as the JCCC 2010 Small Business Person of the Award on Wednesday at the Municipal West Building in Mt. Vernon.

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Executive Director Brandon Bullard.

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Manager Chris Collins was recognized as the latest Small Business Person of the Year.

"I'm very honored to have been chosen. When you think of all of the talented and hardworking people in the community, it's overwhelming," he said.

Collins noted that he believes the rest of the staff and the board at the airport, "Team MVN," make the success at the airport possible.

"I'm very grateful," he said.

Information from the Chamber states, "Under Chris's leadership, the airport has become a place to be proud of. There is a new home on airport grounds for Air Evac helicopters, profitable fly-ins for EAA, expositions such as LSA Expo, a new fire truck for the airport fire station, a certified plane engine repair service, and a terminal building that houses a restaurant and several business offices."

The information goes on to state that in 2007 the airport was awarded Illinois Small Airport of the Year, and the finances at the airport have been "in the black since Chris took over five years ago."

Joyce Poorman, owner of JP Trophies and co-chairwoman of Jefferson County Operation Iraqi Freedom, was selected as the JCCC's Citizen of the Year.

Information states, "She co-chairs Jefferson County Operation Iraqi Freedom, which raised over \$109,000 to send to all Jefferson County Military Warriors currently serving within the War Zone a 'PX/BX Christmas Gift.' She also co-chairs the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Senior Saints Committee, is involved in Jefferson County Business and Professional Women, Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Toys for Kids, Christmas for the Needy, Small Business Council of Jefferson County, an advocate for women who have been victims of sexual assault, and highly active in her church teaching Sunday School and assisting with Vacation Bible School."

In addition to the naming of the citizen and small busi-

ness person of the year, area Students of the Year and Classroom Grant Recipients were awarded.

Travis Tatlock, a senior at Woodlawn High School, said he was nominated by his principal before being awarded as one of the 2010 Students of the Year.

He explained why he believed he was chosen, "I've tried to be very involved at the high school and through other activities to set a community model in my service."

Others students awarded on Wednesday include Samantha Allen of Mt. Vernon Township High School who was also recognized as a Student of the Year and Joseph Capps, MVTHS student, who received a Rend Lake College Tuition Waiver.

Classroom grant recipients include:

- Anne Perry, Hannah Rodgers, Crystal Nowak, Christi Julius and Kiley Thomas of MVTHS;

- Diane Porter, Laura Skorch and Joyce Wilton, McClellan Grade School;

- Brandi Sauerhage, Ina Grade School;

- Michelle Lee and Rebecca Frisby, Mt. Vernon Primary Center;

- Mary Beth Lance, Casey Middle School;

- Stacey Meadow, Dodds Grade School;

- Marsha Garrett, Woodlawn Grade School;

Award winners including the citizen and business person of the year will be honored at the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. on March 26 at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.

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