

Nebraska Non-Profit celebrates 30 years of service

News Release

A statewide network of community partnerships working to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms marked a milestone earlier this year.

On Wednesday, March 12th in Omaha, Project Extra Mile marked it's 30th year by honoring individuals and organizations from across the state for their efforts in preventing alcohol-related harms.

Awards were given to advocates that have devoted time and energy to improving public health and safety by advocating for evidence-based strategies to prevent excessive alcohol consumption and its harms in their neighborhoods.

Those recognized included:

Community Advocate Award – Jim Boucher & Cole Williby for their efforts to separate youth-focused events from alcohol and ensuring that liquor laws are being followed to protect their community;

Diane Riibe Going the Distance Award – Tom Safranek for his public health advocacy;

Law Enforcement Agency Award – Plattsmouth Police Department, Blair Police Department, and Cass County Sheriff's Office for their commitment to prevent underage drinking and the associated harms;

Marty Conboy Public Advocate Award – Maggie Ballard for her advocacy, willingness to collaborate, and her outreach to policymakers to share the science;

Media Award of Excellence – John Chapman & Bella Caracta for their comprehensive coverage of alcohol-related problems in Nebraska and potential solutions;

Young Leader Award – Caleb Vaughan for being a leader at his school and in the community while balancing his academic and extracurricular commitments;

Fred Zwonechek Special Recognition Awards –

Ed Vierk – for his lifelong commitment to traffic safety;

UNMC College of Public Health – for encouraging students to promote public health through collaborations with the organization;

Jeffery Southall, II, UNO Student Service and Leadership Collaborative – for creating a program that improves the community and provides students with professional development opportunities.

This year's event featured two keynote speakers. Dr. Sean Haley, PhD, MPH with The City University of New York's Graduate School of Public Health and Policy who discussed the national alcohol landscape and the important role of coalitions like Project Extra Mile in protecting communities. Additionally, Mr. Marty Conboy, a former Project Extra Mile board member and Omaha City Prosecutor, spoke about the founding of the organization and the continuing importance of its mission to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms in Nebraska.