



## **Press Release**

**December 18, 2017**

### **2018 Minnesota Business Ethics Awards Put On Hold**

MINNEAPOLIS – Effective today, nominations for next year’s Minnesota Business Ethics Award (MBEA) have been suspended, as the nearly 20-year award program—which recognizes businesses and organizations across the state that practice and promote ethical workplace conduct at a high level—has been put on hiatus for 2018.

“We are taking this action due to unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances,” said Jeff Ramsey, Director at RSM US Wealth Management and MBEA Steering Committee Co-Chair. “However,” he added, “the look and feel of the MBEA’s next version will be very much under our control and evident in the not-too-distant future.”

“The intention is that these prestigious awards, which have recognized large, medium-size and small Minnesota organizations since 1999, will once again be given out in 2019,” noted Brian Volkmann, MBEA Steering Committee Co-Chair and Chief Financial Officer at Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union. “Specifics regarding this new direction will be made public next year once they are finalized,” he said.

Each year, nominees are sought from a variety of sources including customers, clients, employees and vendors who were moved to do so based on the trust, respect or ethical conduct these organizations demonstrated. And, prior to this hiatus, nearly 70 companies—13 for the first time—had been nominated for 2018. The process of notifying each of these organizations of this change-in-status is currently underway.

## 2018 Minnesota Business Ethics Awards Put On Hold—add 2

The MBEA's legacy includes an annual springtime awards luncheon. However, the 2018 event was slated to be a dinner affair on May 9 at the Golden Valley Country Club and has been cancelled. More information on this announcement—and the MBEA in general—can be found at the [MBEA website](#).

*The MBEA recognizes Minnesota businesses that exemplify and promote ethical conduct in the workplace, the marketplace and the community which has recognized 52 Minnesota-based businesses, ranging in size from less than 10 employees to more than 150,000. The MBEA was co-founded in 1999 by the Society of Financial Service Professionals – Twin Cities Chapter and the Center for Ethical Business Cultures (CEBC) - now known as the Center for Ethical Organizations (CEO) - at the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business. The MBEA is co-sponsored by the Society of Financial Service Professionals and the Financial Executives International (FEI) – Twin Cities Chapter. Information about the MBEA and a list of past MBEA recipients can be viewed at [www.mnethicsaward.org](http://www.mnethicsaward.org).*

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### Media Contact:

Jim Accurso  
Highland Plaid Partners  
Phones: 651-788-7332 847-814-1743 (cell)  
Email: [jimaccurso@gmail.com](mailto:jimaccurso@gmail.com)

### Organizational Contacts:

#### Brian Volkmann

Co-Chair, MBEA Steering Committee  
Chief Financial Officer, Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union  
Phone: (612) 312-9260  
Email: [BVolkmann@affinityplus.org](mailto:BVolkmann@affinityplus.org)

#### Jeff Ramsey

Co-Chair, MBEA Steering Committee  
Director at RSM US Wealth Management  
Phone:  
612-376-9825  
Email: [Jeff.Ramsey@rsmus.com](mailto:Jeff.Ramsey@rsmus.com)