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E-Day Awards mark honorees' entrepreneurial energy

Crown Point – The NW-ISBDC team will honor the E-Day Class of 2025 on Thursday, Nov. 13, spotlighting entrepreneurs and advocates sparking synergy in the Region.

“Our Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards allow us to tell the stories of the business owners and advocates who are key components of our entrepreneurial community,” said NW-ISBDC Regional Director Lorri Feldt.

Tickets for the E-Day awards are now available by visiting www.edayleaders.com/event. Ticket deadline is Friday, Nov. 7. The luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Avalon Manor, 3550 E. Lincoln Hwy., in Merrillville.

The Class of 2025 includes:

- Small Business Persons of the Year: Ryan and Chris Sandberg, Sandberg's Towing & Recovery, Valparaiso
- Women-Owned Business of the Year: Carol Harsh, Wild Birds Unlimited, Crown Point and Schererville locations
- Young Entrepreneur: Emmani Ellis, No Limit Living, Gary
- Advocate for Youth Entrepreneurship: Antonio “Tone” Conley, BuddingPreneurs, Michigan City
- Small Business Advocate: Trudy Menke, Reframing Leadership, LaPorte County
- Emerging Business: Joseph Podgorski, Project R3D, DeMotte
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Ross Pangere, The Ross Group, Portage

“Our team is always inspired and energized by the vital impact our honorees are making in Northwest Indiana,” Feldt said. “We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2025 and celebrating their unique individual journeys of business ownership and entrepreneurial support.”

Serving seven counties in the region, the Northwest ISBDC offers no-cost assistance for entrepreneurs starting or expanding their businesses. Through one-on-one consulting, the NW-ISBDC helps guide small businesses toward their goals by offering referrals, workshops, training opportunities and other essential business tools. It is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Small Business Administration, the State of Indiana and other local partners.

For more information, visit www.isbdc.org.

With photos: E-Day awards are ready to be presented to honorees during the 2024 luncheon event.

Purdue Northwest Chancellor Chris Holford addressed the group at the 2024 E-Day Awards event.