

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jones County Chamber of Commerce Announces Finalists for 2024 Membership Awards

Laurel, MS – October 2024—The Jones County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the finalists for the 2024 Membership Awards, which honor outstanding businesses and individuals who have made a significant impact in the Jones County community. The winners will be announced at the Annual Banquet & Membership Awards Presentation on **October 29th, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM** at the **Lauren Rogers Museum of Art**.

The Membership Awards recognize excellence in various categories, including community involvement, exceptional customer service, influential leadership, and small business success. These awards highlight the contributions of local businesses and leaders who work tirelessly to make Jones County a thriving and vibrant place to live and work.

The finalists for the 2024 awards are as follows:

Community Champion Award

- **Dixie Electric:** A leader in community engagement, Dixie Electric supports local charities through financial contributions and active involvement in community projects.
- **Sylvia Clark, Hunt Southland Refining:** With decades of volunteer service, Sylvia Clark is recognized for her leadership in community projects and dedication to Jones County.
- **Community Bank:** Known for their tireless efforts in supporting local organizations, Community Bank continues to show a passion for helping the community flourish.

Service of Excellence Award

- **Thermo-Kool:** With over 64 years of customer service excellence, Thermo-Kool's hands-on approach to client relationships sets them apart.
- **Renew Medi Spa:** This local spa creates personalized experiences for every client, providing an unmatched level of care in the community.
- **The Lodge at Sweetwater Studios:** Offering a unique glamping experience, The Lodge combines luxury hospitality with a connection to the natural beauty of Jones County.

Woman of Influence Award

Dr. Amanda Mathews, Insight Therapy Center: Amanda's leadership in her business and community, along with her charitable contributions, has made her a respected figure in Jones County.

Heather Brown, Magnolia State Bank: Through her involvement in community events and her leadership at Magnolia State Bank, Heather is recognized for her creativity and dedication.

Dr. Alicia Walker, Wayne-Sanderson Farms: Alicia is celebrated for her advocacy for gender diversity and her leadership roles within the business and community sectors.

Small Business of the Year Award

- **Hill's In-House Jewelers:** Known for their custom jewelry and community fundraisers, Hill's In-House Jewelers is a cornerstone of Jones County's business community.
- **Renew Medi Spa:** Providing much-needed wellness services in Laurel, Renew Medi Spa is recognized for their customer care and dedication to the community's health and well-being.
- **The Laurel-Jones County Library:** The library has become a hub for educational programs and family-friendly activities, providing vital services to residents of all ages.
- **Farm Systems of Laurel:** After overcoming adversity, Farm Systems of Laurel has shown incredible resilience and continues to be a leader in its industry and a pillar of the local economy.

Leadership Award

- **Dr. Scott Carson, Southeastern Baptist College:** Under Dr. Carson's leadership, the college has expanded programs and partnerships that have positively impacted the community.
- **Betsy Ivey, United Way of the Pinebelt:** Betsy's strategic leadership has driven collaboration and community impact through her work at United Way.
- **Jimmy Walker, Laurel Ford:** With decades of experience, Jimmy's forward-thinking leadership has had a lasting influence on both his business and the community.
- **Nicki Hudson, Community Bank:** Nicki is recognized for her involvement in local organizations and her commitment to forward-thinking business practices.
- **Blake Anderson, Whitestone Transportation, LLC:** Blake's leadership has brought new economic opportunities to Jones County, including the development of Cold Link Logistics, an \$80M investment in the region.

"We are proud to celebrate the incredible work of these businesses and individuals who have made such a positive impact in Jones County," said Chris Tullos, Director of the Jones

County Chamber of Commerce. “Their dedication to excellence, community service, and leadership continues to make Jones County a wonderful place to live and work.”

The Jones County Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Meeting & Membership Awards Presentation is open to members. For ticket information or additional details, please call 601-649-3031.

About the Jones County Chamber of Commerce:

Established in 1984, the Jones County Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to promoting business growth, job creation, and economic development in Jones County. The Chamber supports local businesses through various initiatives, including networking events, educational programs, and advocacy.

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