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**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2024**

HANOVER, ILLINOIS - Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) hosted their Annual Meeting for 2024 celebrating the organization's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Timmerman's Supper Club in East Dubuque. The sold-out event gathered about 145 stakeholders from 47 different local and regional organizations and involved a NWILED Board of Directors meeting, business spotlights, guest speaker remarks, and the organization's annual Collaboration Awards.

During the NWILED Board of Directors meeting Marisa Kappes of TBK Bank and Susan Jacobs of the Carroll County Board were elected for a three-year term, while Diane Gallagher of the Jo Daviess County Board and Tiffany Brandt of Dupaco Community Credit Union were reelected for additional three-year term. NWILED's 2024 Officers were also elected to serve on the organization's Executive Committee. David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director, closed the business portion of the program with remarks about the successes NWILED experienced in 2023 and gave a preview of the organization's planned programming for 2024. He also announced the public release of NWILED's 2023 Annual Report, which is available in both English and Spanish at [www.NWILED.org](http://www.NWILED.org).

To showcase NWILED's ongoing Made in NW Illinois business spotlight series, representatives from Carroll Industrial Molds and EVS Hobbies USA in Milledgeville and Clara Joyce Flowers of rural Stockton were invited to share details about their operations. The Illinois Finance Authority also spoke about their role in bringing their C-PACE program to the region.

The evening ended with NWILED's Collaboration Awards. The 2024 recipients were:

- Member of the Year award went to Highland Community College
- Board Member of the Year award went to Joseph Mattingley
- Community of the Year award went to Mount Carroll, Illinois

“NWILED would like to acknowledge the ongoing support members Conlon Construction, Illinois Bank and Trust, JCE Co-op, and Jo Daviess County give to NWILED,” said NWILED Regional Director, David Schmit. “We also appreciated the assistance Amy May Photography and Timmerman's Supper Club gave that helped make the evening successful.”

#### ABOUT NWILED:

Northwest Illinois Economic Development was formed in 2008 by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors whose main goals were to spearhead economic development structures, funding and progress in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. The Board's focus was to form a regional development entity concentrating on growing the economy and public/private partnerships.

Today, NWILED promotes economic development by fostering business growth and assisting expanding and relocating businesses in determining their needs for growth with cooperation of government and business partners. NWILED encourages entrepreneurs by assisting with access to resources to begin and grow their businesses and employ all available resources to create a welcoming business environment, aligning the skills of the available workforce with the needs of businesses, and building political and economic capital.