

## Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce recognized five businesses at 3rd Annual Awards Ceremony

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Marie Lewis



Prince Wallace



Alan Reid



Dave St. Peter



Robin Hickman

Five Twin Cities businesses received distinguished awards from the Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC) at its 3rd annual Umoja Awards Ceremony Friday, November 6. The ceremony was held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Each year, the awards ceremony and dinner recognize outstanding business achievements of the African American community and those working as advocates of the business community.

There were three award categories: Business of the Year, Small Business Advocate of the Year, and a community recognition award.

Business of the Year – Under \$1 million: Associates by Design, Marie Lewis, founder and owner.

Business of the Year – \$1 million to \$10 million: Independent Packing Services, Prince Wallace, co-founder.

Business of the Year – Over \$10 million: EMPO Staffing, Alan Reid, founder

The award for Small Business Advocate was presented to the Minnesota Twins professional baseball team for its work and collaboration fostering the growth of Minnesota's African American small businesses. Dave St. Peter, president of the Minnesota Twins, accepted the award.

Soultouch Productions founder Robin Hickman was awarded MBCC's community recognition award.

"Our annual awards ceremonies have been an opportunity for the chamber to recognize the accomplishments of African and African American businesses, as well those who advocate for those businesses. This year, we took our efforts one step farther. The chamber launched a Youth Collegiate Scholarship Fund to provide scholarship opportunities to help youth who have an interest in entrepreneurship and business," announced Lea Hargett, vice president of the MBCC.

A percentage of the event's proceeds will be used to establish the MBCC's new Youth Collegiate Scholarship Fund.

For more information about the Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce or to learn more about the benefits of membership, please visit [www.minnesotambcc.org](http://www.minnesotambcc.org).