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# News

Macomb County Executive  
Mark A. Hackel



## Planning & Economic Development

### *For Immediate Release*

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## **Macomb County's top businesses honored**

The Macomb County Business Awards celebrated its third successful year today when six businesses were recognized for being some of the best in the county.

Major General Gwen Bingham was keynote speaker. Commanding General of U.S. Army TACOM LCMC, Bingham oversees more than 1,800 employees at this purchasing central for the U.S. Army where up to 70 percent of everything a soldier wears, drives, shoots or eats is procured. The anchor of Macomb County's prolific defense corridor, TACOM awards \$16 billion in contracts each year. Bingham graduated from the University of Alabama with a marketing degree and as an Army ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate in 1981. She has served in a multitude of positions ranging from platoon leader to two star commander. Her deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. She has earned numerous recognitions included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service and others.

Steve Arwood, new president and CEO for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, offered insight about coming changes in Michigan.

David Girodat, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank for Eastern Michigan, spoke about the county's newest nonprofit organization, Advancing Macomb.

Huel Perkins, anchor for Fox 2 Detroit, returned as celebrity emcee and was joined by County Executive Mark A. Hackel to award recipients in six categories. The impressive crystal awards went to:

- **Champion of Workforce Development:** PTI Engineered Plastics, Macomb Township  
PTI is a custom injection molder and manufacturer of plastic components and assemblies whose global customer base varies from small tier suppliers to large OEMs. In 2014, they launched a new initiative and the first of its kind for Macomb – the PTI Technical Academy. It is designed to introduce the fundamentals of the manufacturing industry to high school students who may wish to pursue a technical career path. Each class consists of a lecture and hands-on activities. PTI's goal is to design and implement education and skill-building programs that will strengthen their workforce and increase the skilled labor force in the community as a whole. [www.teampti.com](http://www.teampti.com). Contact: Melissa Brode (586) 203-4725.
- **Corporate Citizen:** First State Bank, St. Clair Shores  
First State Bank is Macomb County's hometown bank. Since 1917, First State Bank has demonstrated a commitment to their community and neighbors. Recent community initiatives

include a free mobile app called Banker Jr. to help kids save and learn money recognition and budgeting through games, no-cost debt counseling for customers through GreenPath Debt Solutions, a scholarship program with Macomb Community College for 11 incoming East Detroit students with \$1,000 for the academic year, a Thanksgiving food drive for Macomb Food Bank, monetary support to Stony Creek Metropark to revive the Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert and fireworks and much more. [www.thefsb.com](http://www.thefsb.com). Contact: Gene Lovell (586) 445-4789.

- **Diversification Leader: Coliant Corporation, Warren**  
Founded in 2004, Coliant started in a basement designing, manufacturing and distributing rugged electrical accessories that are intuitive and universally adaptable. Now, as award-winning developers of several technologies, Coliant primarily serves the automotive and power sport industries. More recently, they deepened their relationship with the Department of Defense (DoD) and are now in negotiations with companies in several secondary-market industries including sporting goods and aerospace. In 2010, Coliant released their first Personal Climate Control System™ under the trade name RapidFIRE to great reviews. In 2013, their RapidFIRE heated jacket liners received a perfect rating from Adventure Bike Rider. This year, Coliant was hired by SAIC for the DoD. [www.coliant.com](http://www.coliant.com). Contact: John Swiatek (586) 276-0900.
- **Energy Efficiency Expert: Magna Seating of America, Inc. DBA Shelby Foam Systems, Shelby Township**  
Shelby Foam Systems makes foam pad products for Magna facilities that manufacture complete seat systems for global automakers. In 2014, Shelby Foam Systems implemented many projects and programs which are beneficial toward saving energy, the environment and reducing operational expenses. The key projects included LED lighting, VSD air compressor, process cooling and e-waste recycling. An air leak tag board was created after a plant air audit to promote employee involvement and awareness toward fixing compressed air leaks. They partnered with DTE's Energy Incentives Program which provided incentives for various improvement projects and the use of Michigan-made products whenever possible. [www.magna.com](http://www.magna.com). Contact: Paula McIntyre (586) 816-1404.
- **Start-up Business of the Year: SkyBlade Fan Company, Warren**  
SkyBlade is a manufacturer of high-volume, low-speed ceiling fans that range in diameter from 12-to-24 feet. Their fans save on energy costs by recycling trapped heat and by cooling buildings. Since beginning in a basement, SkyBlade has moved to a 15,000-square-foot warehouse and office space. Each year, sales have grown higher than projected which has allowed for additional staff to be hired from the local area. The technical nature of this industry allows them to hire architecture and engineer majors as interns from both University of Detroit Mercy and Wayne State University, giving them the necessary job skills to hit the ground running after they graduate. [www.skybladefans.com](http://www.skybladefans.com). Contact: Jon Jones (313) 515-8011.
- **Model of OneMacomb: Chaldean Community Foundation, Sterling Heights**  
The Chaldean Community Foundation is dedicated to advancing the needs of the Chaldean-American community through education, charitable giving and advocacy. Among its missions is to provide Iraqi refugees and low-income immigrants with necessary medical, psychological and social services to assist with American acculturation. Through their seven key initiatives, they help refugees of the Iraq war to become less dependant on federal and state subsidies, supply mental health services, provide free or reduced-cost health care, provide low-interest loans to help refugees purchase cars as well as emergency loans for shelter and offer assistance to the disabled. The foundation also administers cultural competency training to community organizations. [www.chaldeanfoundation.org](http://www.chaldeanfoundation.org). Sharon Hannawa (586) 722-7253.

The event was coordinated by the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development. Director Stephen N. Cassin also awarded the Economic Development Partner of the Year award to the Detroit Regional Chamber. Charged with retaining and attracting business investment to the region, the department has been integrally involved in many of the chamber's programs.

The breakfast was held at Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Township. Leading sponsors included the Detroit Regional Chamber, Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, Michigan Economic Development Corporation as well as AT&T, Automation Alley, First State Bank, Macomb Mall and the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center.

**Department of Planning & Economic Development:**

The Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development supports an environment where businesses prosper and people thrive. Its activities and programs are focused on stimulating the local economy through business retention, expansion and attraction while improving the overall quality of life for residents. The department specializes in providing services to businesses at all stages of development with a concentration on the high-growth industries of aerospace, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing, defense and homeland security. For more information, call (586) 469-5285 or visit [www.MacombBusiness.com](http://www.MacombBusiness.com).

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