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2015 Business Appreciation Month winners announced *23 Regional Business Excellence winners, 52 Merit Award winners honored*

The Kansas Department of Commerce has named 23 Regional Business Excellence Award winners and 52 Merit Award winners as part of Business Appreciation Month, the Department's annual celebration of Kansas businesses and their contributions to their communities and the state economy.

The 75 businesses were nominated in one of four categories: manufacturing/distribution, service, retail and hospital/non-profit. Five of the 23 Regional Business Excellence Award winners have been named finalists for the Governor's Award of Excellence, the top award given to a business by the state, which will be announced June 25 at the Team Kansas Awards Banquet in Overland Park. The five finalists are:

- Community National Bank & Trust, Chanute.
- Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, Arkansas City.
- ITC Great Plains, Dodge City.
- LifeTeam, Newton.
- The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Dodge City.

"The Business Appreciation Month awards provide a great opportunity to honor the many outstanding businesses in our state," Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George said. "The finalists, regional winners and merit award winners have helped grow the Kansas economy, create jobs and invest in their communities."

For more information, please visit KansasCommerce.com/BAM.

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(The list of award winners follows on pages 2-4.)

Finalists and Regional Business Excellence Award Winners

FINALISTS				
<i>Award Winner</i>	<i>Nominating Organization</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Region</i>
Community National Bank & Trust	Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce & Office of Tourism	Retail	Neosho	Southeast
Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, LLC	Cowley First-Cowley Economic Development	Manufacturing/Distribution	Cowley	South Central
ITC Great Plains	Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation	Manufacturing/Distribution	Ford	Southwest
AirMD, LLC dba LifeTeam	LifeTeam	Service	Harvey	South Central
The Victory Electric Cooperative Association	Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation	Service	Ford	Southwest
REGIONAL WINNERS				
<i>Award Winner</i>	<i>Nominating Organization</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Region</i>
Action Pact	Manhattan Chamber of Commerce	Service	Riley	Northeast
Blish-Mize Co.	City of Atchison	Manufacturing/Distribution	Atchison	Northeast
Capstan Ag Systems, Inc.	Capstan Ag Systems, Inc.	Manufacturing/Distribution	Shawnee	East Central
Eagle Nest, Inc.	Winfield Main Street & Winfield Chamber of Commerce	Hospital/Non-profit	Cowley	South Central
Fashionista Exchange & Boutique	Marisel Walston	Retail	Johnson	East Central
Genco Manufacturing, Inc.	City of Garnett	Manufacturing/Distribution	Anderson	Southeast
Gove County Medical Center	City of Quinter	Hospital/Non-profit	Gove	Northwest
Hutton Construction	Kansas Turnpike Authority	Service	Sedgwick	South Central
Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA	Chanute Area Chamber of Commerce & Office of Tourism	Service	Neosho	Southeast
NEK-CAP, Inc.	Hiawatha Foundation for Economic Development	Hospital/Non-profit	Brown	Northeast
Nell Hill's	City of Atchison	Retail	Atchison	Northeast
Netsmart Technologies	Overland Park Chamber of Commerce	Service	Johnson	East Central
Original Bread Inc. dba Panera Bread	Original Bread Inc.	Retail	Sedgwick	South Central
Schamber Historic Preservation	Rooks County Economic Development	Service	Rooks	Northwest
Signature Style Salon & Spa	South Central Community Foundation	Retail	Pratt	Southwest
Support Kansas City, Inc.	Support Kansas City, Inc.	Hospital/Non-profit	Johnson	East Central
The EyeCare Center	Solomon Valley Economic Development	Retail	Mitchell	Northwest
Wilson County Historical Society	Fredonia Area Chamber of Commerce	Hospital/Non-profit	Wilson	Southeast

Merit Award Winners

MERIT AWARD WINNERS				
<i>Award Winner</i>	<i>Nominating Organization</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Region</i>
A/C Enterprises, Inc.	Greater Morris County Development Corporation	Manufacturing/Distribution	Morris	Northeast
Agua Fina, LLC	Wyandotte Economic Development Council	Service	Wyandotte	East Central
Ark City Country Mart	Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce	Retail	Cowley	South Central
Aunt Gerties Art & Antiques	Lucas PRIDE Committee	Retail	Russell	South Central
Barton Solvents	El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado Main Street, El Dorado Inc., City of El Dorado	Manufacturing/Distribution	Butler	South Central
Big C's	Morton County Economic Development	Retail	Morton	South Central
Bonnie J Buckman Insurance Agency	El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado Main Street, El Dorado Inc., City of El Dorado	Service	Butler	South Central
Caring Connections, LLC	Stevens County Economic Development Board & Hugoton Area Chamber of Commerce	Service	Stevens	Southwest
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas - Atchison Emergency Assistance Care Center	City of Atchison	Hospital/Non-profit	Atchison	Northeast
Central Veterinary Services PA	Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce	Service	Graham	Northwest
Concordia Tractor, Inc.	CloudCorp	Retail	Cloud	Northeast
Cook's Auto/Hardware Hank	Russell County Eco Devo & CVB	Retail	Russell	Northwest
Dale's Super Market	Hillsboro Development Corporation	Retail	Marion	South Central
Digital Evolution Group	Overland Park Chamber of Commerce	Service	Johnson	East Central
Doane's Furniture	Fredonia Area Chamber of Commerce	Retail	Wilson	Southeast
Dr. R. Guy Cleverley, DDA PA	Fredonia Area Chamber of Commerce	Service	Wilson	Southeast
Ellsworth Childcare & Learning Center	Ellsworth-Kanopolis Area Chamber of Commerce	Hospital/Non-profit	Ellsworth	Northwest
Family Features	Family Features	Service	Johnson	East Central
Garden View Lodge	Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce	Service	Russell	Northwest
Gifts & More LLC	Rooks County Economic Development	Retail	Rooks	Northwest
Good Samaritan Home Health of Central Kansas	Ellsworth-Kanopolis Area Chamber of Commerce	Hospital/Non-profit	Ellsworth	Northwest
Grouse Valley Grill	Cowley First-Cowley Economic Development	Retail	Cowley	South Central
Hiawatha Thriftway	Hiawatha Foundation for Economic Development	Retail	Brown	Northeast
Hillsboro Co-Op Grain & Supply	Hillsboro Development Corporation	Manufacturing/Distribution	Marion	South Central
Jacam Chemicals, LLC	City of Sterling/Main Street Sterling	Manufacturing/Distribution	Rice	South Central

JD Construction	Marysville Chamber of Commerce	Service	Marshall	Northeast
Kansas Veterans Home	Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce	Hospital/Non-profit	Cowley	South Central
Kellerman Insurance/Kellerman Real Estate	Sarah Larison	Service	Jackson	Northeast
KOFO Radio	Ottawa Main Street Association	Service	Franklin	Southeast
Leach & Naegele	Russell County Eco Devo & CVB	Service	Russell	Northwest
Legacy Regional Community Foundation	Cowley First-Cowley Economic Development	Hospital/Non-profit	Cowley	South Central
Locust Grove Village	Rush County Economic Development	Hospital/Non-profit	Rush	Northwest
Manhattan Arts Center	Manhattan Chamber of Commerce	Hospital/Non-profit	Riley	Northeast
Manhattan Running Company	Manhattan Chamber of Commerce	Retail	Riley	Northeast
Maple Wood Lawn & Landscape	Roxan Wilhlem	Service	Brown	Northeast
Numana, Inc.	El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado Main Street, El Dorado Inc., City of El Dorado	Hospital/Non-profit	Butler	South Central
Pat's Signs	First Option Bank	Service	Miami	Southeast
Razorjack Recruiting	City of Atchison	Service	Atchison	Northeast
RCB Bank	Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce	Service	Cowley	South Central
Resource Service Solutions, LLC	Resource Service Solutions, LLC	Service	Douglas	East Central
Robin's	El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado Main Street, El Dorado Inc., City of El Dorado	Retail	Butler	South Central
Royal Rubbish No. 2 by Roxbary	City of Garnett	Retail	Anderson	Southeast
Scipio Supper Club	City of Garnett	Retail	Anderson	Southeast
Shay Distribution	Fredonia Area Chamber of Commerce	Manufacturing/Distribution	Wilson	Southeast
Sims Fertilizer & Chemical	City of Osborne Economic Development	Retail	Osborne	Northwest
Sonic Drive-In of Garnett	City of Garnett	Retail	Anderson	Southeast
Sonic of Beloit	Solomon Valley Economic Development	Retail	Mitchell	Northwest
Sterling Services	City of Sterling/Main Street Sterling	Manufacturing/Distribution	Rice	South Central
Supreme Floor Co.	Hillsboro Development Corporation	Service	Marion	South Central
The Looking Glass	Smith Center Chamber of Commerce	Service	Smith	Northwest
Ultra Electronics ICE	Manhattan Chamber of Commerce	Manufacturing/Distribution	Riley	Northeast
Union Bank & Trust	Bonner Springs - Edwardsville Area Chamber of Commerce	Retail	Wyandotte	East Central