

# Chisago County, ABC project win statewide Partnership Award

The Chisago Lakes County Economic Development Authority's Best Communities (ABC) initiative once again finds itself in the statewide limelight.

On Dec. 5, the Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED) presented its annual Partnership Award to Chisago County and the Chisago Lakes America's Best Communities initiative. The Partnership Award recognizes exceptional efforts and achievements of organizations working together to achieve positive results in economic development in the State of Minnesota. The Partnership Award was one of six awards presented at the annual Association of Minnesota Counties conference.

MAPCED says the purpose of the award is "to recognize and celebrate successful economic development ventures and partnerships that fulfill the MAPCED mission of fostering economic growth, expanding tax base, and enhancing quality of life in Minnesota counties."

Local residents accepting the award on Monday were Nancy Hoffman, executive director of the Chisago

County Economic Development Authority-Housing Redevelopment Authority, Chisago County Commissioners George McMahon and Mike Robinson, Chisago County Administrator Bruce Messelt, and ABC team members Tangi Schaapveld and Bill Coleman.

Hoffman says she nominated Chisago County and ABC for the award because she wanted to recognize the hard work of everyone who's been involved in the numerous ABC initiatives.

"This area has tried to work together like this for so long," says Hoffman. "The ABC initiative provided the structure, the incentive and the funding to make real progress possible. The stars have aligned, and the future is bright."

Hoffmann says she is confident that, thanks to the groundwork that has been laid, the ABC projects now underway will continue to progress whether or not Chisago Lakes wins the ABC national competition next spring.

Sharing the Chisago Lakes ABC success story with others

Hoffman and Bill Coleman will continue to share the



Chisago Lakes' ABC success story in midJanuary at the Economic Development Association of Minnesota Winter Conference. "We hope other public/ private economic development partnerships will benefit from the things we've learned in Chisago Lakes and Chisago County as a result of the ABC initiative."

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information about the America's Best Communities contest, and the work being done by the local ABC committee, go to [www.chisagolakes.com](http://www.chisagolakes.com), or inquire at the Chisago Lakes Chamber office in Lindstrom, 651-257-1177.

