

2025
Best of
Northwest
Indiana
Business

2025
Best of
Michiana
Business

2025 BEST OF BUSINESS

WINNERS FOCUS ON EXPANSION, KEEPING EMPLOYEES HAPPY AS REGION GROWS

HEATHER PFUNDSTEIN

The Region is on the brink of economic greatness, and our 2025 Best of Business Awards winners reflect the anticipation for the boom to come.

From new offices to new employees, many of the 2025 Best of Business winners spent last year setting the stage for growth and prosperity.

Northwest Indiana Business Magazine's 20th readers' survey honors winners in seven categories in Northwest Indiana and Michiana. Our winners excelled at providing services and products to the more than 1.4 million people who call the Region home.

"The Best of Business Awards hold unique recognition for organizations that demonstrate excellence in their industries," said Rich Shields, vice president of marketing for Tech Credit Union, which has multiple locations in the Region. Shields also is a longtime member of Northwest Indiana Business Magazine's editorial advisory board composed of business leaders and experts.

"Beyond the honor, (a Best of Business Award) often motivates businesses to continually strive for growth and leadership, making it a prestigious accolade for any recipient," Shields said.

Regional economic growth also benefited many of our winners, including McMahon & Associates CPAs PC in Munster.

"The growth in population and businesses in Northwest Indiana has provided an opportunity for our firm to have significant growth," CEO Terry McMahon said.

Heather Meyer-Schlipp, executive director of South Bend Orthopaedics, pointed to efforts in the Region to build stability.

"The stronger our Region, the stronger we are as an organization," she said.

Growth mindset

Many companies faced a positive challenge — they needed space to grow.

Kruggel Lawton CPAs based in South Bend expanded through the acquisition of a like-minded company, Cole Gavlas, based in Michigan, and moved its Elkhart office to a new facility.

“These milestones will provide many opportunities in the years ahead,” said CPA Barry Hall, managing partner at Kruggel Lawton CPAs.

Granger-based Office Interiors acquired HDW Commercial Interiors in Merrillville. Both commercial design and furniture companies are Best of Business winners in their respective regions.

“(The acquisition is) very good news for our team and our clients — it’s kind of a game changer,” said Rita Bacevich, director of strategic initiatives for Northwest Indiana for HDW, an Office Interiors Inc. Company.

Likewise, Urschel Laboratories completed a major expansion in 2024, adding 115,000 square feet of manufacturing space to its Chesterton headquarters, and Franciscan Health Crown Point opened its new location in January, among other big projects in the Region.

“Watching our community respond to the new facility in such a positive way has been inspiring,” said Dr. Daniel McCormick, president and CEO of Franciscan Health Crown Point.

Latitude Commercial, which has an office in Crown Point, has moved up its search for a bigger office to house its growing number of employees.

“Our most pressing goal is to find a new office location that can accommodate our growth and address the current issue of limited space,” said Aaron McDermott, co-founder and president of Latitude.

Burke Costanza & Carberry, which has offices in Merrillville and Valparaiso, spent 2024 planning for a new La Porte location.

“As we explored a new office location, we ensured our existing operations stayed strong,” said Tory Prasco, managing partner. “Strategic planning and careful site selection were exciting and challenging.”

Some businesses even expanded beyond the Region’s borders. Merrillville-based Centier Bank opened branches in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis last year, plus a banking center in Cedar Lake.

“One of our goals for 2025 is to continue to expand our footprint across Indiana, so we can serve those markets with our signature brand of hospitality,” said Mike Schrage, CEO and chairman of the bank.

Economic growth

Our winners also focused on hiring and retaining employees who fulfill the mission of their companies.

General Insurance Services based in La Porte hired from within. “Being able to provide career paths and career growth opportunities here in Northwest Indiana is absolutely core to our mission and something about which we’re extremely proud,” said Craig Menne, president.

Thomas Gryp, president and CEO of Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, credits its staff too. “We have such an incredible group of partners (employees) that genuinely try to change a life each and every day,” Gryp said. “It is that consistent effort

success would be achievable,” Urschel said.

Nick Larson, vice president of Larson-Danielson Construction, knows this too. “Given that our people are our business, we sincerely believe that nothing is impossible when you’ve got the right people on your team,” he said. “(We) plan to continue growing by finding ambitious individuals looking to work with the best in the business.”

Tammie Carr, president of TalentSource, also is looking to grow her staff.

“The beginning of (2024) was tough, but so are we, so we fought hard to turn things around the second half of the year,” she said. “And we ended up having a great year!”

Our winners are also pleased to be part of the Region’s business community.

“We look forward to collaborating with local partners to drive positive change in the Region, empower individuals, and help them achieve their educational



READ STORY ON PHONE



Photo provided by Urschel

Urschel Laboratories employees agree that the company is a great place to work.

to truly make a difference that attracts members and allows us to succeed.”

That’s true for Beacon Health System.

“During a challenging year for health care nationwide, I’ve watched our associates consistently deliver outstanding care, inspire health and connect with heart,” CEO Kreg Gruber said.

Urschel Laboratories, which specializes in food-cutting technology, is focusing on reducing employee hours this year.

“Business growth outpaced our ability to hire, and it is causing a hardship on our workforce,” CEO Rick Urschel said.

The global company is governed by an employee stock ownership plan.

“Without (our employee owners’) commitment and dedication, none of our

and career goals,” said Matthew Luth, acting dean of the Valparaiso University College of Business.

Andrea Short, leader of 1st Source Bank and 1st Source Corp., said 2024 had its challenges — just like every year. The bank opened a banking center in Winamac and a loan office in Crown Point.

“Our goal for 2025 is the same as it is every year — continue to live out the 1st Source Bank mission of helping our clients achieve security, build wealth and realize their dreams,” Short said.

These lofty goals make this year’s Best of Business winners stand out with our readers, who voted for “the best!” Thank you for participating in this year’s survey!

And the winners start on the next page ►

BEST OF BUSINESS AWARDS

Best Internet Provider

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

MTA /
Midwest Telecom of America

MICHIANA
Winner:
Surf Internet

COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION

Best Company to Work for

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Urschel Laboratories Inc.

MICHIANA
Winner:
Horizon Bank

Best University
for a Technology Degree

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Purdue University Northwest

MICHIANA
Winner:
Ivy Tech Community College

Best University to Attain an MBA

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Valparaiso University

MICHIANA
Winner:
University of Notre Dame

Best University Online
Degree Program

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Indiana University Northwest

MICHIANA
Winner:
IU South Bend

Best Minority-owned Business

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

18th Street Brewery

MICHIANA
Winner:
Visions GPS Branding

Best Veteran-owned Business

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Veterans' Cafe & Catering

MICHIANA
Winner:
Acme Water World

Best Woman-owned Business

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

HDW, an Office Interiors
Company

MICHIANA
Winner:
The Brow Co. Aesthetics Studio

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

Best Commercial
Real Estate Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Latitude Commercial

MICHIANA
Winner:
Cressy Commercial Real Estate

Best Commercial Construction
Firm for New Construction

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Larson-Danielson Construction

MICHIANA
Winner:
Tonn and Blank Construction

Best Commercial
Construction Firm
for Remodeling or Expansion

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Larson-Danielson Construction

MICHIANA
Winner:
Tonn and Blank Construction

Best Engineering Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Superior Engineering LLC

MICHIANA
Winner:
Millies Engineering Group

Best Commercial
Architectural Design Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Facet Architecture

MICHIANA
Winner:
Shive-Hattery

Best Commercial
Landscaping Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

Dean's Pools and Landscaping

MICHIANA
Winner:
Lakeshore Landscaping

Best Residential
Real Estate Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA
Winner:

McColly Real Estate

MICHIANA
Winner:
Cressy & Everett Real Estate

BEST OF BUSINESS AWARDS

WINNING REMARKS



“We had several wins in 2024 that all came together to cumulatively add to our success.”

— Rick Urschel,
Urschel Laboratories Inc.



“We are strategically expanding to better serve Northwest Indiana.”

— Tory Prasco, Burke
Costanza & Carberry LLC



“We want to continue to serve our clients and each other well.”

— Andrea Short,
1st Source Bank



“Their dedication is deeply personal because they’re serving the communities they call home.”

— Kreg Gruber,
Beacon Health System



“Centier’s focus has always been to provide warm and welcoming interactions with our neighbors.”

— Mike Schrage,
Centier Bank

Best Residential Home Construction Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Homes of Distinction

MICHIANA

Winner:

Clayton Hoover and Sons

Best Residential Home Remodeling Construction Firm

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Affordable Remodelers

MICHIANA

Winner:

Andree Builders Inc

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Best Restaurant for Business Entertaining

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Gamba Ristorante

MICHIANA

Winner:

Cafe Navarre

Best Meeting Site for Large Groups

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Avalon Manor Banquet Center

MICHIANA

Winner:

Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa

Best Meeting Site for Small Groups

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Center for Visual and Performing Arts

MICHIANA

Winner:

South Bend Technology Resource Center

Best Caterer for Events

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Ace Catering

MICHIANA

Winner:

Navarre Catering and Events

Best Golf Course for Charitable or Business Events

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Innsbrook Country Club

MICHIANA

Winner:

Blackthorn Golf Club

Best Photographer for Events

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Bella Photography & Design

MICHIANA

Winner:

Josef Samuel Photography

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Best Hospital or Hospital Group

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Winner:

Franciscan Health

MICHIANA

Winner:

Beacon Health System