



2018 Northfield State of the City Address Was A Night To Remember

For Immediate Release

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Northfield—On March 19, 2018, Mayor Rhonda Pownell presented her annual State of the City Address to over 150 attendees. Doors were open at 6pm. The program was an hour long, starting at 6:30pm in Kracum Performance Hall, Weitz Center, Carleton College.

Co-Sponsors of the event were Northfield Business & Tourism Center and Rotary Club of Northfield. Xcel Energy sponsored desserts, refreshments, and music by Randall Ferugson following the program.

Poet Laureate Rob Hardy shared words of reflection and inspiration of “vision”. Contributions to his reading by Northfield poets Becky Boling, Florance Dacey, D.E. Green, Marie Gery, Karen Herseth-Wee, Diane LeBlanc, Steve McCown, Hannah Pahs, Leslie Schultz, Nancy Soth and Anne Sovik. Stitched together by Rob Hardy.

Mayor For A Day Essay Contest, a first time award, was presented to six Northfield students; three from 4th grade and three from 5th grade.



Pictured: (front row left to right) Lola McCarty 5th gr. Sibley, Crystal Palma 4th gr. St. Dominic, Grace Mostad 4th gr. St. Dominic, Madyson Sevcik 5th gr. Bridgewater, Riley Schwamb 5th gr. Prairie Creek, and Ben Flory 4th gr. Sibley Elementary School.

(back row left to right) City Administrator Ben Martig, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member David DeLong, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Mayor Rhonda Pownell.

Another first time award, the 2018 Ethics Award - developed to recognize a junior or senior high student who exhibits high ethical standards, was presented to Northfield senior Siri Hoff by Principal Joel Leer. “Siri has been a consistent champion of what is good and right in the world. Siri has been a vocal leader in community activism, including the annual Martin Luther King celebration, last year's "A Day Without Immigrants" rally, and the women's March on Washington. Siri is a tireless advocate for historically marginalized populations in our school, community, and country. Ethics and equity are the pulse that beats in Siri's heart.”



Pictured (from left to right) Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Siri Hoff, Council Member David DeLong, Northfield Principal Joel Leer, City Administrator Ben Martig, and Council Member Suzie Nakasian.

Our newly created City of Northfield *Board & Commission Member Excellence Award* provides recognition to an individual City board member or commissioner for accomplishments of outstanding worth in advancing and improving public service in the City of Northfield. We need great volunteers on our city boards and commissions and this is an opportunity to recognize just one of the many we have. We need more volunteers and if you are interested please consider when we have openings or encourage others.

This year's award for Board and Commission Member Excellence Award goes to Bonnie Jean Flom. Bonnie's nominator states: "Bonnie Jean does an exemplary job at showing gratitude for the work of her fellow commissioners, recognizing them at every opportunity during meetings and in email communications. She builds community in all of her interactions and exemplifies the spirit of service that our community prides itself on. She provides enormous energy and support to the activities of the ACC by almost singlehandedly coordinating and facilitating both the Living Treasure Award and the Sidewalk Poetry Contest."



Pictured (from left to right) Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Bonnie Jean Flom, City Administrator Ben Martig, Council Member David DeLong, Council Member Rhonda Pownell, and Council Member Suzie Nakasian.

A video recording will be available on the City's website <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/> and NTV soon.

For more information, contact Communications & Human Resources Director Michelle Mahowald at 507-645-3012 or Michelle.Mahowald@ci.northfield.mn.us

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