

## 2018 MGFA Community Service Award Recipient – Philip Deal

The Minnesota Grain & Feed Association established the Kim Turner Community Service Award in 2008, to recognize a grain elevator or feed mill member of the association, for his or her strong leadership in and dedication and commitment to the community in which they reside.

Kim Turner was the General Manager of the Hallock Co-op Elevator Company and a member of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association (MGFA) Board of Directors when he died of injuries sustained in an automobile accident on November 11, 2007. In honor of his memory, the Association chose Kim as the first recipient of the first MGFA Community Service Award.



Kim set a very good example for someone deserving of recognition for his service to the community.

This year's recipient of the MGFA Community Service award is Philip Deal, General Manager and CEO of the Wheaton-Dumont Co-op Elevator. Phil has been General Manager of WDCE since 2006. Prior to that, Phil served as the grain merchandiser for the co-op from 2001 to 2006. He earned his Bachelors of Science Degree in Finance from Moorhead State University.

Philip serves at the will of the co-ops 9 member board of directors, which is led by Vaughn Maudal. The Wheaton-Dumont Co-op Elevator, a locally owned and operated grain and agronomy cooperative, was organized in 1905. The cooperative serves more than 1200 patrons and employs over 120 people. The co-op has grown considerably over the last several years, including several major expansion projects at Wheaton, Graceville and Britton, SD. In all, the co-op currently operates facilities in Wheaton, Dumont, Tenney, Clinton, Nassau and Graceville in Minnesota; LaMars, Hankinson, Mantador and Rutland in North Dakota and New Effington, Sisseton and Britton in South Dakota.

Speaking of the Graceville location, I had the opportunity to work with Phil a couple summers ago, in hosting a delegation of Minnesota State Agency Commissioners, which they called the COW tour for "Commissioners of Wheels". Phil did an excellent job joining me in explaining to the commissioners - what our industry is all about. We were lucky enough to have a BNSF unit train on-site being loaded so the delegation had a unique opportunity to witness the process. Phil took the opportunity to go into detail about loading unit trains, the value of being a unit train loader and outlined the journey this train would take from its origin in Graceville to its final export destination. Needless to say, the commissioners thoroughly enjoyed the visit and most wanted to stay longer instead of going on to their next stop, which was a confined feedlot (and who could blame them). Phil was also gracious enough to co-host with us - Senator Al Franken - on a harvest visit a couple years ago. Here again, Phil did a great job in conveying to the Senator and his delegation, the significant role that a grain elevator plays as an economic driver in rural Minnesota.

Phil has been an active member of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, offering ongoing input and guidance as a member of the MGFA Advisory Committee. I learned early on that one of the main priorities for Phil was his devotion to safety for his employees and his co-op patrons. He helped organize and co-sponsored the Grain Bin Rescue Training Center in Erdahl. With his priority on community relationship building, he was instrumental in having the co-op donate a set of grain bin rescue tubes to every one of the 13 local fire departments where the co-op has facilities. In addition, Phil made it his goal to have all his employees go through the training center and also opened up the training to High School farm kids so they could learn first-hand about grain bin safety at the farm level.

Philip has given back countless hours to the various schools and kids in communities served by the co-op. He served as a Cub Scout leader, coached elementary and junior high basketball and youth football. He continues to volunteer his time with a variety of school projects and organizations.

Philip is also a strong leader within his local church. He has taught Sunday school for 20 years, served on the Parish Council for 24 years and is a current member of the finance committee. He managed a \$1.5 million renovation of the church and currently serves as a Trustee.

Philip's leadership style and humility, combined with his integrity and commitment to ethics helps make him an incredible community leader, worthy of recognition by this association. His selfless contributions and the relationships he has built will continue to serve the community for years to come.

So, on behalf of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure in awarding the 2018 MGFA Community Service Award to Philip Deal. Congratulations!

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Zelenka, Executive Director, MGFA

Pictured above - left to right: Chuck Grimes, WDCE Director; Vaughn Maudal, WDCE Board President; Dave Estrem, MGFA President; Dan Nigg, WDCE Director; Philip Deal, WDCE CEO; Duane Steen, WDCE Director; Bob Zelenka, MGFA Executive Director; Doug Wilson, WDCE Grain Merchandiser; and, Greg Frisch, WDCE Director.