

GFDGA names Scott McQueen 2016 Catalyst winner at annual banquet

Dinner with friends

By **BILL SHEA**

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A Fort Dodge man who has spent decades serving his community in roles ranging from recruiting members for the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance to mentoring young people received the alliance's highest honor Thursday night.

Scott McQueen was presented the Catalyst Award during the group's annual dinner at the Best Western Starlite Village Inn & Suites, 1518 Third Ave. N.W.

"This individual has a can-do spirit and a sincere commitment to getting things done," said Kraig Barber, the 2015 Catalyst Award winner who presented the honor to McQueen.

Barber said McQueen has been "incredibly active" in the Growth Alliance and the former Fort Dodge Area Chamber of Commerce. He added that the honoree has also been committed to programs like Bridging the Gap, which provides mattresses to children of families that can't afford them.

He added that McQueen is relentless when it comes to raising money for charitable groups by selling raffle tickets.

"Most of us dodge him when we see him coming with a pocketful of raffle tickets," Barber said.

McQueen was literally speechless for a couple of minutes after he accepted the trophy from Barber. Then he appeared to be fighting back tears when he noticed that his parents were in the audience after making a surprise trip from Mesa, Arizona, to Fort Dodge for the dinner.

"I love this community," he said. "I learned a lot about giving growing up with my parents."

"I've always tried to be a giver," he added.

He financial representative for Northwestern Mutual. He has represented that firm in Fort Dodge since 1978.

McQueen has been a member of



-Messenger photo by Hans Madsen

SCOTT MCQUEEN, of Fort Dodge, is all smiles as he shares a moment with his son, Tom McQueen, of Omaha, after being awarded the 2016 Catalyst Award during the annual Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance dinner Thursday night at the Best Western Starlite Village Inn & Suites. McQueen's parents, Ken and Carole McQueen, of Omaha, at left, also made a surprise visit to see him get the award.

the Ambassadors, a group that welcomes new businesses with ribbon cutting ceremonies, since 2000.

He was a member of the board of directors of the old Fort Dodge Area Chamber of Commerce from 1998 to 2000. He concluded his service to the board by serving as its president in 2000.

He served on the Chamber's School to Career Committee for a decade. He also served for 10 years on its Golden Apple Committee, which presented the Teacher of the Year Award. He was a member of the Small Business Development Committee as well.

In 2011 and 2012, McQueen

served on the committee that created the Growth Alliance by merging the Chamber and the Fort Dodge and Webster County Development Corp. He is now a member of the alliance's Membership Committee.

He has been the president of several organizations, including the Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way, Sertoma Sun-downers (1994-1995), the YMCA Foundation, and the Fort Dodge chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisers.

McQueen also mentors young people through the Bridges pro-

gram of the Fort Dodge Community School District.

Additionally, he has taken on numerous volunteer and leadership roles in his church, First United Methodist Church in Fort Dodge.

He previously served on the board of the Fort Dodge Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, a roughly 33 block downtown area in which property owners pay an extra tax to finance improvements there.

McQueen graduated from Fort Dodge Senior High School in 1974 and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Iowa State University in Ames.