

NAIOP Wisconsin Hosts Annual Meeting, Awards Program

*Development Association Recognizes Outstanding Leaders and Projects;
and Installs 2024 Board of Directors*

[Milwaukee]...The Wisconsin Chapter of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, hosted the organization's Annual Meeting and Awards Program January 31, 2024, at the Milwaukee Westin.

NAIOP recognized outstanding volunteer leaders, the Development of the Year for 2023, and formally installed their 2024 Board of Directors.

"NAIOP Wisconsin members are Wisconsin's leading commercial real estate professionals and are committed to building thriving communities through real estate development," said NAIOP CEO Jim Villa. "We applaud and congratulate this year's well-deserving honorees."

Principal (Developer) of the Year Award

Derek Taylor, Chief Operating Officer for Three Leaf Partners was named the NAIOP Wisconsin 2023 Principal of the Year. Principal members develop, own, and/or invest in commercial real estate.

Taylor, who will serve as the Chapter's Board President in 2024, oversaw a historic growth in the Chapter's membership as the Chair of the Membership Committee where he implemented innovative strategies to recruit and retain members. He also oversaw the creation of NAIOP Wisconsin's Community Development Symposium which featured an event focused on Diversifying the CRE Industry in 2023. Derek, an award-winning BBQ pitmaster, shares his talents, and his BBQ, annually at the Chapter's Clay Shoot.

Associate of the Year Award

Travis Peterson, Economic Development Manager for Kapur, was named the NAIOP Wisconsin 2023 Associate of the Year. Associate members provide services or products to the commercial real estate development industry.

As a volunteer, Peterson is involved in planning programs and recruiting and retaining new members for the Chapter. Travis also orchestrates a fun competition at the Chapter's Clay Shoot to raise funds for REACH, the Real Estate Alliance for Charity. In 2023 he recruited, organized, and led a band composed of industry professionals aptly named Built 2 Suit, who performed at a NAIOP Wisconsin Development Showcase.

Development of the Year Award

The NAIOP Wisconsin 2023 Development of the Year Award goes to the **Olympia Fields development in Oconomowoc**. Olympia Fields is a revitalization of the long-cherished Olympia Resort. The redevelopment includes 19,000 square feet of new retail space, a 5-story mixed use building, and 166 apartments. The project will also host a Veterans' Affairs Outpatient

Led by Milwaukee developer **Wangard Partners**, the project will add over \$64 million in property value. Development partners included **Greenfire Management Services, Kraus Anderson, Plunkett Raysich Architects**, and **raSmith**.

Developing Leader of the Year

Mike Testa, Business Development Manager and Senior Broker Associate for Ogden & Company, was named the NAIOP Wisconsin 2023 Developing Leader of the Year. The NAIOP Developing Leaders' Program provides exclusive benefits to commercial real estate professionals 35 years of age and younger. Testa was honored for his contributions to the Chapter as a leader of the Programs Committee and for his involvement in the Developing Leader All Star Program with the NAIOP Corporate Developing Leaders Award.

Developing Leader All Stars

The Chapter's exclusive program for young professionals provides a platform for mentorship, education, networking, and service. Members are recognized after their first, third, and fifth years of achieving the annual criteria.

First Year Honorees:

- Tim Brown, Eriksson Engineering Associates
- Lucas Geiger, MSA Professional Services
- Lane Gugger, Greywolf Partners, Inc.
- Allie Jorgensen, VJS Construction Services
- Joe Jorgensen, VJS Construction Services
- Shaun Knapp, LaSalle Investment Management
- Michelle Long, KAI Real Estate
- Josh Narrai, Tri City National Bank
- Jordan William Nelson, Design Manage Advise
- Luis Abel Robles, Kiser Group
- Alejandro Rodriguez, Community First
- Dan Shilts
- Joe Stanton, Three Leaf Partners

Third Year Honorees:

- Conor Farrell, Founders 3 Real Estate Services
- Nick Hepner, JLL
- Michael Moe, Greenfire Management Services
- Tyler Schmitz, Trane Technologies
- Connor Weas, Weas Development

Fifth Year Honorees:

- Matt Fahey, Colliers
- Mike Testa, Ogden & Company

In addition to these annual awards, a number of distinguished honors were announced.

Liza Romans, Real Estate Director for Northwestern Mutual, has been named the 2023 NAIOP Wisconsin Trailblazer. The **Trailblazer Award** is presented when a member demonstrates extraordinary leadership and innovation in advancing the mission of the Chapter.

Romans, a Chapter Board Past President, was instrumental in the development of the Chapter's unique Developing Leader All Star Program and the first Chair of our Marketing Committee. She is also a past winner of the NAIOP Corporate Developing Leaders' Award and will lead the Chapter's first Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Matt Moroney, CEO for Wangard Partners, was recognized as the 2023 **Mike Mooney Award** Recipient. This award, named after one of the Chapter's founders, is presented when a member demonstrates remarkable leadership in advancing the industry and economic development.

Moroney, a former gubernatorial Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, is an active leader of the Chapter's public policy and economic development efforts. His leadership at local and state levels has been instrumental in advancing numerous key policy initiatives such as TIF, wetlands reform and removing costly red tape that slows development and increases costs. He was also a significant force in the creation of the NAIOP Wisconsin Chapter and served as its first Executive Director.

NAIOP Wisconsin's **Thrive Award** celebrates a project, business, government official, or individual dedicated to building thriving communities through real estate development. **The St. Augustine Preparatory Academy development by VJS Development and VJS Construction Services** was recognized with the NAIOP Wisconsin Thrive Award. Development partners included **Korb + Associates** and **Kapur**.

Driven by the generosity of **Gus and Becky Ramirez**, the project supports improving educational opportunities for underserved youth in the City of Milwaukee. The new 123,000 square foot elementary school allows the Academy to add up to 900 additional students.

New members of the Board of Directors

NAIOP Wisconsin is pleased to announce Joe Dundon, Vizance, Bryan Johnsen, Tri City National Bank, and Mike Riopel, Northwestern Mutual have been appointed to the Chapter's Board of Directors. A complete list of the Chapter's Board of Directors is available at www.NAIOP-WI.org.

In addition, the following were named 2024 Board Officers; Derek Taylor, Three Leaf Partners (President), Nick Jung, F Street (Vice President), Brad Amunsen, Associated Bank (Treasurer), Mike Wanezek, Colliers (Secretary), and Bailey Copeland, Greywolf Partners (Past President).

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