KANSAS MAYOR OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Kansas Mayors Association Meets in Hays and Elects New Leadership

This past weekend at the Kansas Mayors Conference and Leadership Summit in Hays, Mayor Grant Spieth of Columbus was named 2023 Mayor of the Year. The Kansas Mayors Association (KMA) annually selects a mayor who has provided exceptional support to their community and KMA.

The KMA was established to assist its members in better serving their municipalities and to promote excellence in local government. The association offers a unique opportunity to network and exchange information with mayors across the state of Kansas. Each year, the professional association takes the opportunity to recognize one mayor who has exemplified selfless contributions to their community.

This year’s winner was selected by his peers based on his impressive dedication to the City of Columbus. Mayor Spieth has served the City of Columbus as a Mayor and Councilmember for more than 20 years beginning his first Mayoral term in 1999 and serving four terms as Mayor since. In addition to his activity on the City Council, Mayor Spieth has been active on numerous boards and associations including the National Association of Housing and Development, Columbus Trails Commission, the Cherokee County Emergency Response Team, Lions Club, Columbus Association of Churches, the Cherokee County Local Health Equity Action Team, Cherokee County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Columbus PRIDE.

Going beyond his community, Mayor Spieth is also very involved with The League of Kansas Municipalities and KMA, regularly attending meetings and conferences and actively participating in committees.

Born and raised in the Columbus area, Mr. Spieth’s professional career includes over 30 years of private sector experience and over six years as a state employee. Spieth was a long-time employee of Crossland Construction Company, the City of Columbus’ largest private employer. Upon his retirement in 2016, he was inducted into Crossland’s Wall of Fame which indicates that employees worked for Crossland for more than 15 years.
As indicated by Columbus City Administrator, Jake Letner, who nominated Mayor Spieth, "When he is not at City Hall assisting staff or speaking to students about the importance of community service, he may be found leading his Church as an Elder, building water systems in the Dominican Republic, or advocating on behalf of his constituents at the State Legislature. His volunteer work and leadership positions inspire everyone around him as he consistently shows his dedication to and love for the City of Columbus.”

The 2023 Board of Directors for the Kansas Mayors Association was selected at the conference. David Waters, City of Westwood was elected President. The First Vice President is Loren Lutes, City of Ozawkie, and Second Vice President Russ Kessler, Haysville. A full list of the KMA board can be found at https://www.lkm.org/page/KMABoard.

Established by municipal officials in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of over 500 Kansas cities. The League works for its member cities through advocacy, legal advice, education, and other services. Follow the League of Kansas Municipalities on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Twitter.