Finance & Commerce names Progress Minnesota honorees

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The new Metro Green Line light rail transit route is among the 27 honorees selected for Finance & Commerce’s 2015 Progress Minnesota awards.

The Progress Minnesota program, now in its fourth year, typically recognizes individuals, entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations that are driving business growth and economic development in Minnesota in innovative ways.

The Metropolitan Council, which oversaw construction of the Green Line, estimates the 11-mile route has helped spur $2.5 billion of development and redevelopment projects within a half-mile of the stops between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The projects are either proposed, under construction or completed. The $957 million project received local, state and federal funding.

The Lifetime Achievement award will go to M.A. "Mort" Mortenson Jr., the retiring chairman of M.A. Mortenson Co. of Golden Valley. The company has built and/or developed many high-profile projects in Minnesota and the nation, including Target Field and the future Vikings Stadium.

The 2015 honorees represent familiar names in Minnesota business like Bayport-based Andersen Windows, Hermantown-based Cirrus Aircraft Corp. and Cardiovascular Systems Inc. in New Brighton.

But there are plenty of up-and-comers such as 75F, the Mankato-based company that has developed a technology which helps small commercial property owners improve control of heating and cooling and save energy.

Several honorees are based in Greater Minnesota, including Thief River Falls-based Digi-Key, Duluth-based retailer Maurices and Mankato-based 75F.

The honorees will be feted at an event April 9 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Finance & Commerce also will publish a special magazine that will profile the honorees.
AAR Corp., Duluth
American Mortgage and Equity Consultants Inc., Andover
Andersen Windows, Bayport
Bercom International, Chanhassen
BioMatrix International, Princeton
Cambria Co., Eden Prairie
Cardiovascular Systems Inc., New Brighton
Cirrus Aircraft Corp., Hermantown
DataBank, Edina
Digi-Key, Thief River Falls
Fun.com, Mankato
GeneSegues Therapeutics, Eden Prairie
HelpSystems, Eden Prairie
JAMF Software, Minneapolis
Marco Inc., St. Cloud
Maurices, Duluth
Measurement Specialties, Andover
METRO Green Line, Twin Cities
National Marrow Donor Program, Minneapolis
Olympus Surgical Technologies America, Brooklyn Park
PrairieCare, Maple Grove
Three Bridge Solutions, Minneapolis

Individuals

David Bice
Owner, Bald Eagle Erectors Inc., Forest Lake

Louis J. King II
CEO and president, Summit Academy OIC, Minneapolis

Eileen Manning
Owner, The Event Group, Minneapolis

Lifetime Achievement

M.A. “Mort” Mortenson Jr.
Retiring chairman
M.A. Mortenson Co., Golden Valley