Entrepreneur of Distinction.

Business success is often measured in numbers.

"We look at profitability, the bottom line and economic independence," said Christine Hess, program manager for Nebraska Self-Employment Services. "But business success is also measured in lives changed."

Hess spoke along with Gov. Dave Hieneman, state education commissioner Roger Breed and Vocational Rehabilitation program director Mark Schultz during an awards presentation in Lincoln on July 14 that recognized four individuals who embody the spirit of entrepreneurship.

Jack Mann and the Brady Get-N-Go were among those receiving state Entrepreneur of Distinction awards.

"We are recognizing individuals who have been successful, who have embodied the spirit of entrepreneurship and demonstrated the values and purpose of the Voc-Rehab program," Schultz said. "They have truly achieved, truly succeeded."

Mann and his wife Pam purchased and renovated the Brady grocery, convenience and fuel store last summer, reopening the business in October after the building had sat idle for nearly a year.

They received research help and funding from the Voc-Rehab program.

Mann said business had doubled since he opened and he has intentions for continued growth.

"Entrepreneurship has been growing in our state for several years," Heineman said during the awards ceremony. "Because of this entrepreneur spirit, our state has fared better financially and economically than many others. These businesses have the tenacity and perseverance that it takes."

The other three business owners to be recognized were Robert Danner of Lincoln who owns Open Doors Computer Services, Jean Issler of Holdrege who owns Office Genie and Nathan Chandler of Lincoln owns 40 Nights Photography and Writing.

"These people all had dreams, worked hard and deserve our praise for their accomplishments," Breed said.