

Jack Mann awarded entrepreneur honor

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Brady's Jack Mann is one of four Nebraska business owners who received assistance from Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation that were recognized Thursday for their success.

The 2013 Entrepreneur of Distinction Alumni Award was presented to Mann, owner of Brady Get-N-Go. Since Mann received the 2010 Entrepreneur of Distinction Award, his business has continued to grow.

Mann was chosen for his continued success as well as his contributions to his community. Mann has five full-time employees, including an individual who has a disability. He is active in the community and donates to the scouts, grade school, high school and local sports teams.

The following three business owners received the 2013 Entrepreneur of Distinction Award:

Lee Andersen, owner of Havelock Electric in Lincoln. Since September 2011, Andersen has consistently exceeded his net monthly income goal. With affordable rates and a "no job is too small" attitude, Andersen plans to expand and hire a part-time employee or an apprentice.

Kristi Paben, owner of Ciao by Kristi in Beatrice. With assistance from Nebraska VR, Paben turned her love of cooking into a full-time business. Paben's main dishes are available for pickup and delivery. Paben's sales have been consistent, which she attributes in part to a steady growth of Facebook fans.

Michael Saalfeld, owner of Saalfeld Construction & Roofing in Seward. Saalfeld has more than doubled his profits in his second year of business. He expanded his marketing through his website and handed out fliers door to door.

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“It is an honor to recognize individuals who have overcome personal challenges to build successful Nebraska businesses,” Nebraska Education deputy commissioner Scott Swisher said. “We also recognize you for your willingness to give back to your community by assisting others.”

The Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council selected the business owners in recognition of their entrepreneurial spirit and outstanding business success. The council is comprised of individuals who have an interest in working with VR to ensure that the needs of Nebraskans who experience a disability are met in the most effective and efficient manner possible.