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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SME names 2023 South Dakota Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year

The award is given to individuals who have made an indelible impact on the sales and marketing industry and statewide community.

SIoux FALLS, SD – Sales and Marketing Executives (SME) of Sioux Falls has named Tom Van Wyhe, former owner of JSI Trane and community volunteer, as the 2023 South Dakota Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year.

“On behalf of SME members, our organization is honored to present this prestigious award every year to uplift and spotlight those who have dedicated their career to elevating the sales and marketing industry and our community,” said Mindy Kroll, SME president. “Tom has given so much of his time to enhance the organizations in Sioux Falls and we are thrilled to recognize his talent and service. Congratulations to Mr. Van Wyhe on this well-deserved achievement.”

Since 1987, SME presents the Executive of the Year award annually to an individual in the South Dakota business community who has contributed extensively, demonstrated leadership legacy, and is looked up to in the community. The award will be presented at the Sioux Falls Leadership Summit on Tuesday, June 27 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

“I’m honored and humbled to receive this award,” said Tom VanWyhe. “I’ve had the good fortune in my career and in my community involvement to build life long relationships. These partnerships and friendships are the foundation for my journey. I’m grateful for all who have been beside me embracing the vision and achieving our goals. Thank You SME for this recognition!”

Tom Van Wyhe is known in the area for his community engagement and leadership. A civil engineer graduate, Tom arrived in Sioux Falls in 1973 as a sales engineer for JSI Trane, representing Trane Commercial HVAC systems and service. Tom became the owner of JSI Trane with Sioux Falls and Rapid City locations. Later, he sold JSI Trane to corporate Trane and worked as a regional corporate executive for Trane in the upper Midwest.

As an advocate for Sioux Falls and South Dakota, Tom has served as the Chairman of the board of 13 organizations: Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau (Experience Sioux Falls), Sales and Marketing Executives of Sioux Falls (SME), Sioux Empire Housing Partnership, Rotary West, Westward Ho Country Club (The Country Club of Sioux Falls), Sanford Health Foundation, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers – South Dakota Chapter, Sioux Falls Arena/Convention/Entertainment

Center Public Facility Board, Sioux Empire Junior Achievement, Sioux Empire Farm Show, Orpheum Theater, and Good Samaritan Society Foundation National Board. He has also served on numerous community fund drives, civic projects and has volunteered or been a member of dozens of area organizations.

The South Dakota Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year is honored in conjunction with SME's Rising in Excellence award. Rising in Excellence is given to a current SME Sioux Falls member, between ages 25 to 45, who is viewed as a future leader in and has contributed to the business community. The Rising in Excellence winner will be announced at the summit on June 27. Nominations for the Rising in Excellence award are being accepted on the SME website through May 15.

In 2022, Scott Lawrence and Joe Kippley received the Executive of the Year and Rising in Excellence awards, respectively. Past Executive of the Year award winners can be found [here](#).

The Sioux Falls Leadership Summit is a signature event for SME and features speakers, networking and other opportunities to inspire and teach local business owners, leaders, entrepreneurs, and sales and marketing executives. This is the third year of the event, featuring keynote speaker and New York Times bestselling author, Jon Acuff. A local opening speaker will be announced later in May.

The event is open to the public and tickets can be purchased at www.SMESiouxFalls.org. Tickets are \$99/individual or \$1,200 for a reserved, preferred placement table of 10.

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ABOUT SME: Sales and Marketing Executives, Inc. (SME) is the premier organization for developing and sustaining a driven and influential force of leaders in the Sioux Falls community, and continuously provides its elite membership with networking opportunities and world-class education. SME members include CEOs, marketing managers, sales managers and other senior executives who contribute to the advancement of sales and marketing management. SME: Connect. Grow. Lead. For more information, visit www.SMESiouxFalls.org.

IMAGES:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NiRGTNUKGPbObaqDp4J2OsCHOGfdnSCm?usp=share_link

Event photos credit: SME Sioux Falls/Pinnacle Productions

Headshot 1 photo credit: Tom Van Wyhe

Headshot 2 photo credit: Jon Acuff

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