



MINNESOTA 500

The Most Powerful
Business Leaders in Minnesota

EDITOR'S *note*



AS WE RELEASE THE 2021 EDITION of Minnesota 500, the list is ever-changing. A new title or company for someone furthering their career, a new accolade awarded for breakthrough business practices, even someone changing their favorite book. Much can change since we set the final list of leaders in March 2021, not because “change is the only constant in the world,” but because of the raw passion, talent, ambition and sacrifice that the professionals featured in this publication deliver on a daily basis. That’s what makes our state so incredible to work in. Even more impressive than the quantity is the quality of leaders in our state. The individuals highlighted were chosen because their leadership has made lasting ripple effects on their company, their industry and the larger community.

As we set the final list of leaders in March 2021, our publication might not reflect the most recent leadership changes—a testament in itself to our honorees’ drive and to our state’s growth, even amid a year of turmoil and uncertainty.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW WE ARRIVED AT THE LIST OF EXECUTIVES, VISIT OUR FAQ AT MINNESOTA500.COM

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL US AT MN500@GREENSPRING.COM

Across the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota are people who have high expectations of others and even higher ones for themselves. Across engineering, theater, health care, agriculture, law, education and more, our selected leaders new and old share some of their hard-earned lessons and career paths. These stories also shed light on how our companies are changing their fields locally, nationally and internationally as well as how some of them have stepped up, whether it was to fight against racism, provide health safety resources or give financial relief to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, Minneapolis Foundation’s Chanda Smith Baker significantly shortened the time to get resources to organizations and businesses in need during the civil unrest following George Floyd’s murder, and leaders like the University of Minnesota Foundation’s Kathy Schmidtkofer spent considerable time raising funds for COVID-19 relief and support for students, frontline workers and research. Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation was another of the countless organizations who had to pivot, and its leader, Mark Mishek, created new telehealth services that served 3,000 people within six weeks and quickly put in place policies so that its services were never interrupted.

So perhaps you’re picking up the Minnesota 500 because you want a better understanding of the many businesses in our state, or you want to know more about the leader of a company you’re personally or financially invested in. Maybe you’re even looking to grow your own company’s team. Whatever the cause, I hope you enjoy this year’s edition. Every year we put this publication together, our team is inspired by the honorees’ journeys. We hope that you are, too.

While working on this publication, I came across a quote from Baker Tilly’s Jeffrey DeYoung that reads, “Even during a recession or pandemic, how you treat people will always make a difference and define who you are.” This year’s list of nominees exemplifies those who have gone above and beyond to make a positive difference in people’s lives, even in the middle of an unprecedented time in our state’s history.

STEVE BAUER
Content Director, Minnesota 500

PUBLISHER
Tammy Galvin

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Arthur Morrissey

EDITORIAL
CONTENT DIRECTOR
Steve Bauer

CONTRIBUTORS
Katelyn Bloomquist
Chrissy Sorenson
Mary Subialka
Erik Tormoen
Erica Wacker

EDITORIAL INTERNS
Lelah Byron, Holly Gilvary,
Sarah Hafften, Samuel Johnson,
Caitlin Kosec, Cynthia Maya,
Emalyn Muzzy, Aaron Xiong

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Natalie Pechman

PRODUCTION
ADVERTISING TRAFFIC MANAGER
Ly Nguyen

BUSINESS
BUSINESS MANAGER
Kathie Gorecki

OFFICE MANAGER
Rick Krueger

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Katie West

CIRCULATION
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Riley Meyers

CIRCULATION COORDINATOR
Cathy Krajenke

SALES
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Sue Fuller
Kristin Gantman
Lori Miller
SALES + MARKETING ASSISTANT
Mikayla Snyder

EDITORIAL & BUSINESS OFFICE
GREENSPRING MEDIA
9401 James Ave. S, Suite 152
Bloomington, MN 55431

PHONE 612-371-5800 **FAX** 612-371-5801

HOURLY MEDIA
CEO
Stefan Wanczyk

PRESIDENT
John Balardo

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SONJA BOGART

CEO
KANDIYOHI POWER
CO-OP.

Sonja Bogart became CEO of Kandiyo Power Co-op. in 2020, bringing with her 25 years in the energy industry. That experience includes her years as vice president of customer service, sales and marketing of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association, where she developed product and service offerings. Before that, she worked for Oregon's Umatilla Electric Co-op. as COO, overseeing day-to-day operations and initiatives as well as the coordination of renewable interconnection and transmission projects. She arrives at Kandiyo Power Co-op. amid deeper considerations of renewable energy. Just as she took the lead, a May 2020 article by the *West Central Tribune* quoted Bogart responding to the transition from coal-powered to renewable energy by Maple Grove-based Great River Energy (where Kandiyo gets about 80 percent of its electricity, according to the article), calling it "a big day for the energy industry in the Upper Midwest." Kandiyo Power Co-op. is a member-owned electric cooperative based in Spicer, Minn., and serves 8,600 members. Bogart earned her undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Oregon and her MBA from the University of St. Thomas.



JARED HAWKINSON

President and CEO
COLLINS ELECTRIC

Collins Electric president and CEO Jared Hawkinson is a company man through and through—he started at the company as an intern in 2002 while attending the University of Minnesota and worked steadily up the ladder through a series of positions before reaching the top in 2014. The company has deep roots, too—Collins was established in St. Paul, Minn., in 1948 to help meet the electrical construction demands of postwar America. Through the years, the company has built customer relationships on a foundation of integrity and trust. Today, Collins has grown into a multi-million-dollar full-service electrical and technology contracting company. The company puts a premium on worker safety, with all employees receiving proper equipment and annual training on potential hazards, preventative actions and OSHA regulations. Collins' safety program consistently places as one of the best in the industry. Collins currently employs more than 200 electricians and serves a variety of marquee Minnesota-based clients including Xcel Energy, 3M Co. and Mall of America.



GREG HEINSCH

VP and Principal
GEPHART ELECTRIC
CO. INC.

Greg Heinsch has served Gephart Electric for over 25 years. Gephart Electric is a full-service commercial electrical construction and low voltage systems company. During his time with the company, he has seen successes around the Twin Cities, including the Minnesota State Capitol Restoration, U.S. Bank Stadium and Allianz Field. Before working for Gephart Electric, Heinsch worked as a project manager for Pieper Electric.

EDUCATION: University of Wisconsin, Madison (BS-construction management)



DUANE HENDRICKS

President and CEO
EGAN CO.

As president and CEO of Egan Co., Duane Hendricks is a hands-on leader in planning and execution. He began his 30-year construction career as an electrician, becoming a master electrician before moving into business leadership roles. Since joining Egan in 2002, Hendricks has successfully steered the company through change and growth, working in roles such as executive vice president and COO before settling into his current position in January 2018. Hendricks is an active board member of the Minneapolis National Electrical Contractors Associations and the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota.

EDUCATION: Minneapolis Community and Technical College (electrical construction, controls), Babson College (business administration, management and operations)

FIRST JOB: "Morey's Fish House in Motley, Minn."

HIDDEN TALENT: "Wake surfing or foil board surfing."

FAVORITE BOOK: "'The Ideal Team Player' by Patrick Lencioni."



RICH ROSS

President
PARSONS ELECTRIC

Rich Ross started out with Parsons Electric in 1993 and has been a part of the company for his entire career. "We're problem solvers that never turn away from a challenge because we know the significance of the project we're building and what it will mean for the community and people that live there," Ross says. He was named Parsons' president in 2020 after being the vice president for four years. During his tenure, he has worked across multiple divisions within the company and on some of their largest, most challenging project builds. He has been involved in many new innovation initiatives including Parsons' most recent development: a new streamlined and efficient delivery model across ArchKey enterprise—Parsons' parent company.

EDUCATION: Concordia University (BA-marketing management), University of St. Thomas (MBA-business administration and management)

FIRST JOB: "My first 'real' job was working at a car wash. I remember falling asleep each night, so tired from the day, only to continue to dream about wiping down car after car. I think I lasted about three weeks."



SCOTT BLATTNER

President
BLATTNER ENERGY

Scott Blattner lived on the road as a kid, going where his father's work in construction took him, according to Blattner's company bio. In 1974, while he was on summer break from junior high school, he started working for the family business—and today, he serves as president. Blattner Energy started as D.H. Blattner & Sons in 1907, and in its 110-plus years has helped build public infrastructure while adapting to new technologies. In 2013, Blattner Energy achieved the milestone of having built more than 20,000 megawatts of wind energy, and reached 50,000 megawatts of renewable energy in April 2021. The company has been named the top solar contractor in the U.S. by *Solar Power World* magazine, and it expects to build one-third of U.S. wind projects in 2021. "We're in the sweet spot for sure for the business to power forward," Blattner says, having led the company from railroads to wind power.