



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Chris West receives 2019 Leadership Excellence Award**

Chris West, Grafton Mayor, received the 2019 Leadership Excellence Award for an Elected Official from the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) during the League's 2019 Annual Conference, Sept. 21, in Bismarck.

In his announcement that this award was being presented to Chris, NDLC Executive Director Blake Crosby outlined a few of his many accomplishments:

Chris served six years on City Council and has been mayor since 2010. He is not only active in local government but in his community. He works with the local hospital, VA clinic, new Community Health Clinic, is active in his church, is vice president of a municipal power agency, involved with the Grafton Chamber of Commerce and owns a local business.

Outside of his local government work, he has served on the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund Board since 2014 and was reelected in 2018 and is the Chairperson elect. He also served on the ND League of Cities Board and was President for the 2016-17 term.

The nomination for Chris included several letters of support that describe the type of leader and community member that Chris is. Below are some excerpts from those letters:

Chris is the epitome of the phrase "raising a local leader" as he is the mayor of his hometown. He understands the value of doing little things such as sweeping the sidewalks in the spring if they have salt/sand on them, pulling weeds or remove snow if needed. He is a constant reminder to citizens and employees to take pride in your city. In regard to being a "boss", the city employees could not ask for a better person. He has an open-door policy and is very good at guiding staff in effective communication with the public and each other.

Through Chris's leadership and tireless devotion to his city he took a 35 year old flood diversion project that could never get traction no matter how often it was pulled from the shelf, made it a priority during his tenure as mayor and will save the community almost half a million dollars in insurance premiums. He worked with state and federal leaders to secure \$48 million for this project.

Chris's commitment to helping people, whether as a community leader or as a neighbor is unparalleled.

Chris is a great leader who has a positive influence on his community and a great impact on those he works with.

Chris has a true appreciation for the role his city plays in the region, communicates with those other cities and shows appreciation for what they have to offer and the support they show for his city.

Chris has a "one community" attitude on city council and it has resonated through all city departments.

Chris will be the first to say WE are all in this together.

The President of the Grafton City Council shared this – "he is a husband, father, son, uncle, and family man that truly loves his family. They have granted him time away from them and shared him with all of us so we can all benefit."

***Photo L to R: Dan Stenvold, Park River Mayor and NDLC Board President, Chris West, Blake Crosby, NDLC Executive Director***

*The North Dakota League of Cities provides service, advocacy, leadership, education and support to the state's 357 cities. The League's mission - Strong. Dynamic. Cities. - expresses the value of services offered by the League.*