

About Connie Wimer



Connie Wimer was born in Merrill, Iowa, a small town in northwest Iowa and attended Morningside College. She moved to Des Moines in 1950 and it is here in Des Moines she earned her reputation as a competent, caring and sharing business leader. Connie was the owner and President of Iowa Title Company from 1976 until 1985 when she sold it to Amerus, but continued as President until 2001.

In 1981, she purchased a small legal paper with a circulation of 700. In 1983 she expanded the publication starting the Des Moines Business Record which now has a weekly readership of more than 20,000 as well as additional publications including, dsm Magazine, Catch Des Moines, LiftIowa, the Business Record Daily, the Book of Lists, the Annual Real Estate Magazine and many others. Business Publications Corporation now has 30 employees. Additionally, she created a number of annual events, including Women of Influence

and Forty under 40, recognizing women and young people who contribute to the community.

In addition to the publishing business, she sits on a number of business and charitable boards. She founded Winefest Des Moines and was the first woman to chair the Des Moines Chamber Federation as well as the first woman to chair the National Alliance of Area Business Publications. She is the first woman to receive the Alliance's Lewis M. Conn Award for outstanding contributions to the business publications industry. She was the first woman elected to the Greater Des Moines Committee's Business Hall of Fame in 2002 from the Greater Des Moines Committee and has also been named Master Editor/Publisher by the Iowa Newspaper Association and was chosen to be in the Iowa Woman's Hall of Fame.

She has received many other awards, including the YWCA Woman of Achievement, the Des Moines Chamber's Small Business Person of the Year, Young Women's Resource Center's "Visionary Women", Business and Professional Women's Woman of the Year, Junior Achievement's Hall of Achievement and Variety Club's Humanitarian Award.

The Connie Wimer Women's Leadership Program (CWWL) is named in honor of Connie who has championed leadership development for women and their advancement throughout her career. The program is designed to help undergraduate women accelerate their professional growth through seminars, workshops, and other events focused on personal leadership development, negotiation, skill building, networking and ethical behavior training.

Connie is a member of the Morningside College Board of Directors and serves as Chair of the External Relations Committee.

Awards:

- 1980 Women-in-Business: Small Business Advocate of the Year – SBA
- 1982 Beta Gamma Sigma (Drake University Business School Honor Society) Business Person of the Year
- 1983 YWCA women of Achievement Award
- 1983 Employers Golden Key Award, Indianola Chapter, Business and Professional Women
- 1984 Media Advocate of the Year, SBA
- 1986 Drake University Media “Masters” Award
- 1986 Women in Communications “CORA” Award
- 1987 Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation Small Business Person of the Year
- 1991 Young Women’s Resource Center “Visionary Women” Award
- 1997 Woman of the Year, Des Moines Chapter, Business and Professional Women
- 2002 Greater Des Moines Committee Business Hall of Fame recipient
- 2003 Hall of Achievement Award from Jr. Achievement of Central Iowa
- 2005 Variety Club’s Humanitarian Award
- 2006 Master Editor/Publisher by the Iowa Newspaper Association
- 2006 Lewis M. Conn Award – For Outstanding Contributions to the Alliance of Area Business Publications.
- 2007 Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame inductee
- 2007 Association of Fundraising Professional’s Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award
- 2009 Connie Wimer Spirit Award
- 2014 NAWBO Iowa Hall of Fame Legacy Award
- 2018 Bravo Award – In recognition of her contributions to Des Moines arts and cultural scene