

# 2015 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* Award

## Oz Griebel Awardee



Oz Griebel President and CEO of the Metro Hartford Alliance accepted the 2015 John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award on May 6th during SEE's 9th Annual Character Celebration at Amarantes Sea Cliff in New Haven. In the picture (left) Mr. Griebel is receiving his award from David Wangaard (left), the President of SEE and Cindi Bigelow (2014 Award winner) who introduced Mr. Griebel.

The *Ethics in Action* Award recognizes a business or community leader who demonstrates a commitment to ethics and character in their leadership. Oz Griebel is widely respected for his commitment to ethics in his personal and

professional life.

Several friends of Mr. Griebel made the following comments regarding his recognition with the *Ethics in Action* Award.

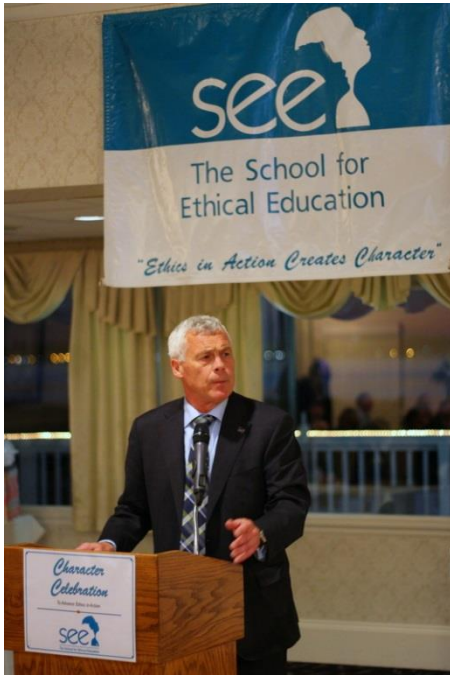
Mickey Herbert (2013 *Ethics in Action* awardee) noted, "In September, 2005, I began work as ConnectiCare's CEO, and on my very first day on the job, Oz called me to welcome me to the greater Hartford region. Since that time, I have worked very closely with him in several different roles, and I have always been impressed with his business acumen, his leadership skills, and, most importantly for our purposes this evening, for his extraordinary integrity. In 2012, Oz wrestled me out of being mostly retired and persuaded me to work with him to establish a special health care council of health leaders all over this state. I did this for nearly two years, and I mention it here tonight because Oz actually provided me an office within the Metro Hartford Alliance in downtown Hartford where I was able to witness first hand his honorable and exemplary business leadership."

Larry McHugh, CEO of Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce observed, "In my 32 years working with the Middlesex Chamber, Oz Griebel is one of the most dedicated and hardworking executives I have had the privilege of working with. He has strong ethical values that are demonstrated in all his decisions both personally and professionally. Young people can and should look up to Oz because he is a role model for what is good in the business community."

Dr. Walter Harrison, President, University of Hartford stated, "Oz Griebel is an outstanding business leader, politician, and economic development champion, BUT did you know he is truly addicted to the sport of baseball? Oz stands out in business and politics because he is a team player and plays fair--two core ethical values of the sport he loves, baseball. Oz was an outstanding former college player and coach. And I am sure he wakes up early each day and scours the sports section of nearly every paper and on-line site he can find. ...My



guess is he knows who is playing on every sand lot in Hartford! This attention to detail is why Oz is good at everything he does.”



In accepting the award, Mr. Griebel spoke directly to the students in the audience and encouraged them to consider including the development of their character as a life-long goal. He cited the writing of David Brooks from his book *Road to Character* in recognition of the importance of character that a person would want to be remembered for at their passing. The character of integrity, caring and fairness that is sometimes overlooked when people start a career and seek to excel over the competition.

Oz Griebel has led the Metro Hartford Alliance, the Region’s economic development leader and Hartford’s Chamber of Commerce, since April of 2001. From February of 1999 through June of 2000, Mr. Griebel served as a Director and President and Chief Operating Officer of MacDermid, Inc., an international specialty chemicals company then headquartered in Waterbury, Conn., and traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Prior to 1999, Oz worked for over 22 years with the then BankBoston Corporation in various finance, legal, marketing, and operations positions, concluding his service as President of the Bank’s businesses in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts from 1993 through 1999. Mr. Griebel also served as a Director of Tallan, a Glastonbury based e-commerce company that was acquired by CMGI in 2000, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of World Business Capital which provides financing to small businesses in international markets.

Oz’s public sector involvement includes service from 2001 to 2006 as Chairman of the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board which developed a multi-modal, comprehensive, 10 year strategy for funding and implementing a modern transportation system for the State. Griebel also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Bradley International Airport and has been involved in numerous organizations that focus on the economic vitality of Connecticut. In 2010, he ran for the Republican Party nomination for Governor.

Mr. Griebel received an A.B. from Dartmouth College (1971) and a J.D. from Suffolk University School of Law (1977). Prior to joining BankBoston in 1976, he had coaching and teaching assignments at the high school and collegiate levels.

In all of these enterprises, Oz Griebel is renowned for his commitment to ethical business practice. SEE is honored to have Oz Griebel accept the John Winthrop Wright *Ethics in Action* award in 2015.