



Mayor's Generational Leadership Award Amanda Quam

Amanda Quam will be awarded the 2016 Mayor's Generational Leadership Award. Mayor Tim Reed created the award to recognize the importance of young leaders who make a community vibrant and dynamic. The physical award shows the creativity of the community and was created by local artist Heath "Tad" Bradley.

Amanda graduated from Brookings High School in 2000, and then attended St. Cloud State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts graduating in 2004. With her studies in Intercultural Communications, after graduation Quam sought a position in an international company.

Quam feels fortunate to be able to return to Brookings as an employee of Daktronics. Amanda has been involved in sales her whole career at Daktronics. She began her career as an Assistant Sales Coordinator and during her 12 years with the company served in several management roles. Amanda's education and passion for intercultural communications lead to her current position as the International Sales Operations Manager.

Quam has been a participant in South Dakota World Affairs Council (SDWAC) programs since returning to Brookings in 2004. In 2013, Quam was nominated to the board and supported education and programming efforts for three years, before being nominated to her current position on the Executive Council as the Secretary.

In 2014, Quam began her work with TEDxBrookings, a series of ten minute talks sharing ideas worth spreading. Amanda not only helped coordinate the event and speakers but found an entire cohort of more than 20 volunteers. She also helped kickoff the first Creativity Week in Brookings during that same year. Quam has continued to maintain a lead role, supporting the last three TEDxBrookings events. Amanda also worked with to bring TEDWomen to Brookings through a live simulcast event.

Quam enjoys being part of the Brookings community. She attends community events with her family as much as possible, a family favorite has been the Downtown at Sundown summer series. She also enjoys the opportunity to be a social connector, especially to those who are new to Brookings. She is a "regular" at 1 Million Cups, and does her best to support the Brookings entrepreneurial community by providing connectivity and introductions as possible.

Quam participated in Startup Weekend during Creativity Week in 2014 and appreciated the opportunity to lead a small team to further develop an entrepreneurial idea. The opportunity served as a unique learning experience in Amanda's career, and she was honored to have taken the 2014 Startup Weekend winning title.

Mayor Reed commented, “Amanda motivates young professionals and families to get involved in the Brookings community and instills a love of Brookings to everyone around her.”

Scott Meyer commented in his nomination of Amanda, “She is a passionate leader, bridging generations and representing the possibility of living in Brookings while still traveling and working around the world.”

Quam lives in Brookings with her husband Ben, their two children Olivia (six) and Lincoln (four).

The award will be presented to Amanda on Thursday, November 10 at the Swiftel Center from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in conjunction with the ABLE Awards for Accessibility, the Butler Human Rights Award and the Mayor’s Awards for Historic Preservation. In 2016 there are two recipients of the Mayor’s Generational Leadership Award. Leah Bielfeldt Brink also received an award. The event is open to the public.

The Mayor’s Generational Leadership Award is given to a community member who has affected the community in the following ways:

- Positively changes how we think about our community and city
- Helps Brookings attract and retain young professionals and families
- Motivates new generations to be active in their communities
- Contributes to the advancement and well-being of the community through service in areas such as: education, sports, fund-raising, charitable and voluntary service, economic development, arts, and the environment.

Nominations open July of each year. Individuals must be nominated before their 36th birthday and all nominations will be kept on file and active for the award for two years.