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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Mark Francis & Tom Lando, Chico Chamber Board Members,  
Named Small Business Advocates of the Year by CalChamber**

**May 23, 2018 CHICO, CA** During today's California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) Capitol Summit in Sacramento, CA, Mr. Mark Francis, President and CEO of Golden Valley Bank, and Mr. Tom Lando, with Tom Lando Consulting, were named Small Business Advocates of the Year for their work co-leading the Chico Chamber's Task Force on City Revenues & Expenditures in 2017.

The Task Force on City Revenues & Expenditures was created by a unanimous vote of the Chico Chamber Board of Directors in early 2017 to advance the Community Vision. The intent of the Task Force was to explore current and projected revenues and expenditures of the City of Chico, potential new sources of revenue and cost savings, and costs of needed improvements to increase the quality of life. The research resulted in the publication of the 2018 Special Report released in January, calling for the Chico City Council to consider a revenue measure to fund business and community priorities like police staffing and improving roads. Read the full report at [chicochamber.com](http://chicochamber.com).

In a written public statement, both Mr. Lando and Mr. Francis expressed appreciation for the recognition and importance of spotlighting the Chico Chamber's Task Force and Special Report. "We very much appreciate the honor," they stated, "Funding public safety and our roads needs to be a top priority for our community and its critical nature is recognized by our business community."

Says Katie Simmons, President & CEO of the Chico Chamber of Commerce, "We've been advocating for North State business priorities in Sacramento for many years. In addition to acknowledging the hard work being done by two incredible business advocates, this statewide award recognizes groundbreaking research and analysis being done by the Chico Chamber Board of Directors. We have shifted from reacting to economic and political changes in our community to driving them through advocacy and economic development. I'm so proud of the work we do to make Chico the safest, most vibrant, premier city in the North State."

CalChamber is a not-for-profit business advocacy organization, an HR compliance resource for California employers, and a lobbyist for pro-job policies, tracking more than 3,000 legislative proposals each year. CalChamber has recognized small business owners since 1996 who have done an exceptional job with their local, state and national advocacy efforts on behalf of small businesses.

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