



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WDM CHAMBER AND ATHENE PARTNER TO SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY**

*The two organizations joined forces to support 10 West Des Moines restaurants*

WEST DES MOINES, IA (September 3, 2020) – The West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) and Athene USA (“Athene”), a leading provider of retirement savings products, partnered to support local businesses within the community to help spur economic development. Together, they randomly selected 10 local restaurants from the Chamber’s membership and Athene purchased a total of \$26,000 in gift cards from these establishments to disperse to employees as a thank you.

“We truly value our employees for their contributions at work and in our community and are pleased to express our gratitude while creating a mutually beneficial relationship in supporting local business,” said Grant Kvalheim, CEO and President of Athene USA. “We are committed to giving back, whether through volunteer service and charitable giving and we appreciate opportunities like this one with the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce to support our local businesses.”

These 10 restaurants were randomly chosen from a pool of West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce members. Representatives from both the Chamber and Athene surprised these establishments and purchased 130 gift cards from each. Athene leaders began dispersing the gifts to employees on Sept. 2.

“We’re grateful to Athene for setting the example in supporting the West Des Moines restaurant community, which is really feeling the pressure during these unprecedented times,” said Katherine Harrington, President and CEO of the WDM Chamber. “Athene is leading the way by not only spurring economic growth in our community, but also encouraging their employees to eat local at a time when restaurants could really use the support.”

The 10 restaurants selected were:

- Barn Town Brewing
- BeerStyles Taproom and Gastropub
- Dino’s Bar and Grill
- Fire Creek
- Gilroy’s Kitchen + Pub + Patio
- Mac Shack
- McAlister’s Deli
- Raising Cane’s
- Vino209 Wine Bar & Bistro
- Wahlburgers

“We are so thankful for being chosen in the random drawing. Athene’s support in purchasing 130 gift cards and giving it to their employees to help support local businesses is a great way to spur spending and spread the word about some of the local restaurants here in our area,” said Jeremy Brittain, owner of Dino’s Bar and Grill.

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*Note to the Editor:*

*In your coverage of this announcement, please utilize the attached photo(s). Photo 1 depicts West Des Moines Chamber employees supporting Athene employees as they purchase gift cards from local West Des Moines restaurant Barn Town Brewing as part of Athene’s gift to its West Des Moines employees. Photo 2 depicts Athene employees enjoying their gift from Athene, which includes a gift card to one of the 10 randomly selected West Des Moines restaurants. The gift is a thank you to employees as well as an opportunity to contribute to the West Des Moines community.*

### **About the WDM Chamber of Commerce**

The mission of the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce is to champion all things West Des Moines by strengthening our area companies, providing personalized resources and attracting a top workforce to position WDM as the best suburban city in America. With 700+ members, we provide something for everyone. Learn more about the chamber and how to get involved at [wdmchamber.org](http://wdmchamber.org).

### **About Athene USA**

Athene USA is a subsidiary of Athene Holding Ltd, a leading retirement services company that had total assets of \$183.2 billion as of June 30, 2020. Athene USA is an Iowa-domiciled corporation that serves as the U.S. holding company for Athene’s annuity operations in the United States. Headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa, Athene USA serves customers in all 50 states, and through its predecessor companies, has been serving American consumers for more than 100 years. Further information about Athene can be found at [www.athene.com](http://www.athene.com).

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