

James P. Abel

Recipient of the 2012 Architectural Foundation of Nebraska's *Distinguished Commitment to Architecture Award*

James P. Abel, Chairman & CEO of NEBCO, Inc, is the 2012 recipient of The Architectural Foundation of Nebraska's *Distinguished Commitment to Architecture Award*. Abel has played a key role in business, philanthropic, and civic activities in the Lincoln, Nebraska area.

NEBCO, Inc. is a 3rd generation, family owned, Lincoln-based company founded in 1908 with interests in the manufacture of concrete building materials, construction, insurance, mining, railroading, farming, and real estate. Jim Abel began his career with NEBCO by working summers while in high school in the company's concrete pipe plant. After college, Jim began several years of working on the company's highway asphalt and concrete paving crews. In 1985, Jim succeeded his father, George P. Abel, Jr. as president of NEBCO, Inc. He continued to serve as President until 2004.



Abel has had a tremendous impact to the economic development and vitality across Nebraska. Over the past 15 years, Jim Abel has used his imagination to recognize the potential of certain innovative development projects in key locations in and around Lincoln that would be visually pleasing and functionally sound. These high quality projects help make the City of Lincoln an attractive location for new families and businesses while providing exciting sports, recreation, housing, retail, and office venues to the existing community.

A number of his significant contributions include: Fallbrook a 700-acre planned community development project that includes residential homes and town homes, a business park, retail center, and school and recreational facilities; Quarry Oaks, an 18-hole championship golf course, open to the public and located on a site overlooking the Platte River between Lincoln and Omaha; Lincoln Saltdogs & Haymarket Park, home to the Lincoln Saltdogs professional baseball team, creating a visually appealing gateway to the Star City, multiple recreation venues, and valuable pedestrian connectors to the Haymarket and to the UNL City Campus; and One Landmark Centre office building at the west end of the Lincoln Mall, developed by NEBCO Realty, is a poster-child for meeting all of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Design Standards for high quality design and construction.

"Jim Abel's imagination, leadership and indomitable will are creating the new landmarks in Lincoln and environs that will shape the future. Jim clearly deserves the Distinguished Commitment to Architecture Award," said Nominator Robert Ripley, AIA, Capitol Commission and Architectural Foundation of Nebraska Board Member.

The *Distinguished Commitment to Architecture Award*, presented by The Architectural Foundation of Nebraska is given to individuals outside the profession of architecture for their activities and accomplishments in the area of professional life, which have notably contributed to the advancement of architecture.