

DxDempsey is in the Small Business Spotlight

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Michelle Dempsey, president of DxDempsey, an architecture firm in downtown Scranton, always knew that she wanted to start her own business and be an entrepreneur. With three generations of entrepreneurship in her blood, it was inevitable. She knew she wanted her business to be a place where creative minds could be sated and where her team could express themselves and be creatively fulfilled. We had a chance to sit down with Michele to find out why she started her business in Scranton and how her company has given back to the community.

wanted to start your own business and why in Scranton?

Michele Dempsey: I had designed a house for my parents and I moved back to Scranton to see the house through construction. Throughout that process I fell back in love with the area. With all of the positive energy and changes that were going on in the city, it just felt right to start my new business here. Our first office was in the business incubator at the Scranton Enterprise Center. All of the development services at the Scranton Enterprise Center helped us build a solid foundation. We've since graduated from the incubator program and moved into Bank Towers.

SC: How would you describe your company to someone?

MD: DxDempsey is a firm that practices thoughtful, sustainable architecture. When we say thoughtful, that encompasses that we truly care about finding intelligent solutions, not just the easiest solutions, to our client's problem. Sustainability is in the DNA of our company culture. That's who we are and what we do. We are in a field that involves building, which by its nature, has a fairly large carbon footprint. So in light of that, we want to be the best environment steward that we can be.

SC: Last year, you received the SAGE Award for Small Business of the Year, how has that affected your company?

MD: The SAGE Award acknowledged that our company is successful because of the whole DxDempsey team. It gave me a chance to express my appreciation for my team on stage in front of our community. We also made a connection with another SAGE Award winner, the Backyard Ale House, while attending the Chamber Gala. When they decided to do renovations; they reached out to us because they recalled we were Small Business of the Year. It shows that you that you never know who you will make a connection with or how it will happen.

SC: Have there been any other unexpected business connections you've made?

MD: We have a wonderful client in Las Vegas and the CEO is from our area. I found out about his local roots the first time we met and uncovered that his father's business was one of the first big accounts my father's business signed over 50 years ago! We ended up designing the retail clothing stores at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs for his company, which led to more work in Las Vegas. Then recently, I was telling him about a cool new retail project that we were designing in downtown Scranton for two sisters from Honesdale. As it turns out, he grew up in Honesdale and knew their family! We were both blown away!

Each month, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, [First Liberty Bank and Trust](#) and [The Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal](#) present the Small Business Spotlight award to a local business that is making its mark in our community. To nominate a small business for this award visit www.scrantonchamber.com or call (570) 342-7711.

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