

David Becker

Class of 1973

Columbia High School

David Becker, is currently owner and Chief Operations Manager of Becker's Farm and Garden Center located in the heart of East Greenbush. He has directed the family-owned business, recognized as one of the oldest in East Greenbush, since 1990. During this time Mr. Becker has taken what was once a small family business and through his adept and considerable entrepreneurial talents expanded it into a large, competitive enterprise. Through sheer effort and knowledge, based on experience, his reputation as an honest and skilled horticulturist has earned him a broad-based network of satisfied and perennial customers in three states.

After graduation from Columbia High School in 1973, Mr. Becker, matriculated at the State University at Cobleskill where he graduated as an Agricultural Engineer in 1974. He entered the Agway Retail Management Training Program in 1978, successfully completing its rigorous program. Since 1974, he has continued to attend Cornell University's Horticultural/Agricultural Training program as a continuing participant on an annual basis. As an adjunct to Mr. Becker's professional preparations he has attended the New York State Academy of Fire Science which has allowed him to excel in his avocation, that of a firefighter.

Mr. Becker has been recognized as a leader in his chosen field of endeavor by a variety of organizations and awards. Among these are as a recipient of: The Oldest Business in Town Award; A Proven Winner Certified Garden Center Award, 2005; Innovator of the Year, Greenhouse Management Production Magazine, 1998; and the Greenbush Award, 1994. Mr. Becker also has been honored in the fire safety sector with: the East Greenbush Fire Company Firefighter of the Year Award, 1996; and the East Greenbush Fire Company Firefighter Officer of the Year Award, 1994.

Mr. Becker's active business schedule has not deterred him from contributing untold hours and resources towards the improvement and preservation of his hometown community. This dedication is manifested in his efforts to provide a source of income/experience for young people as employees. His role in providing a site and mentoring for the East Greenbush School District and Questar's Life Skills classes has proven invaluable to the youth of the community. He has generously donated both time and funding to numerous local organizations too numerous to list. His value to his community is incalculable. It is therefore, with great pride that the East Greenbush School District proudly inducts David Becker into the Columbia High School Hall of Fame.