



The Spirit of Spearfish Award is given to an individual that lives and breathes Spearfish, who goes above and beyond serving the community through volunteerism and engagement, and whose overall contributions are a betterment for Spearfish.

The individual being recognized tonight has served on numerous non-profit boards throughout the community over the years, including the Spearfish Chamber Board, the Spearfish Canyon Golf Board, Northern Hills United Way Board, the Junior Achievement Board, as well as taught JA in the classroom. He currently serves on the Northern Hills Training Center Board, Good Shepard Clinic Board, and Spearfish Economic Development Board.

Since graduating from Spearfish High School in 1991, he has dedicated countless hours and years to youth sports in Spearfish. This rock star was a Little League baseball coach for 6 years, Junior League basketball coach for 10 years, and he coached the 1997 Spearfish Teener baseball team to the State Championship.

He served over 20 years as a High School football official, officiating in 3 State Championship games in the Dome. During those 20 years he also officiated 6 years as a college football official and ten years as a high school basketball official. He served on the Spearfish Youth Baseball/Softball board for many years and was inducted into the Spearfish High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

Since taking his current position with First Interstate Bank, BHSU has received generous amounts in gifts to provide academic and athletic scholarships.

As quoted in his nomination for the Hall of Fame award, “the greatest honor is just knowing and talking to TJ all these years. You could not find or want any more from a young man that has given back not only to his school but also his community”.

Congratulations to TJ Gusso on receiving the 2021 Spirit of Spearfish Award!