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## Casinos get award for alcohol training

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in Prior Lake.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Gaming Enterprise, which includes Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino, has been awarded the 2017 TIPS Award of Excellence from Health Communications, Inc., the providers of the TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) Program. Since 2012, Mystic Lake and Little Six have provided the TIPS responsible alcohol training program to team members, helping them build positive prevention and intervention skills.

“The SMSC Gaming Enterprise is dedicated to providing a pleasant and safe environment for our guests to enjoy all that Mystic Lake and Little Six have to offer,” Angela Heikes, President/CEO of the SMSC Gaming Enterprise, said in a press release. “This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our training staff and team members every day to assure responsible alcohol service.”

The SMSC Gaming Enterprise is one of four award recipients nationally in the casino and gaming category for its successful TIPS responsible alcohol training program. Since the SMSC Gaming Enterprise began using the TIPS program, it has provided 473 classes and certified 3,380 team members.

This award is chosen by an internal committee from Health Communications based on both volume of TIPS training and feedback from TIPS trainers and participants. According to a press release, employees and managers who are certified in TIPS are able to prevent sales to minors, recognize signs of intoxication, effectively intervene to prevent problem situations, and handle refusal situations with greater confidence.