

News Release

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Finalists for Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year[®] award in Central Midwest region announced

Kansas City, MO, April 20, 2009 – Ernst & Young LLP is pleased to announce today the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year[®] award in the Central Midwest. This group of exceptional entrepreneurs was selected by an independent judging panel made up of regional business, academic and community leaders. Winners will be announced at a gala event on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel.

“For the past 23 years, Ernst & Young has honored outstanding entrepreneurs through our Entrepreneur Of The Year program,” said Randy Buseman, Ernst & Young Partner, Strategic Growth Markets. “These entrepreneurs make a tremendous difference within our communities and for our larger economy. We thank them for the positive impact they’ve had in the Central Midwest.”

The Central Midwest program recognizes companies based in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award in 2009 are:

- Philip Heasley, President and CEO, ACI Worldwide, Inc. (Elkhorn, NE)
- Bart Miller, President and CEO, Centrinex (Overland Park, KS)
- Cathy Allin, President and CEO, Decision Insight, Inc. (Kansas City, MO)
- James Ferrell, Chairman and CEO, Ferrellgas (Overland Park, KS)
- Robert Reynolds Jr., Chairman, President and CEO, Graybar Electric Company, Inc. (St. Louis, MO)
- August Grasis III, Founder and Chairman, Handmark, Inc. (Kansas City, MO)
- Robert Janeczko, President and CEO, i2tech (West Des Moines, IA)

- Dr. Mitchell Seyedin, President and CEO, ISTO Technologies, Inc. (St. Louis, MO)
- Dr. Chris Nelson, President, Kemin Industries, Inc. (Des Moines, IA)
- Jon Garnaas, Founder, President and CEO, LADCO Development, Inc. (West Des Moines, IA)
- Narasimha Gondi, President and CEO, Object Technology Solutions, Inc. (Overland Park, KS)
- Paul Rottenberg, President, Orchestrate Hospitality Management (Des Moines, IA)
- Robert Weiner, President and CEO, PAS Technologies, Inc. (N. Kansas City, MO)
- Frederick Van Etten, President, Popular Equipment Finance (Ballwin, MO)
- Dr. Nicholas Franano, Chief Scientific Officer, and William Whitaker, Esq. VP/General Counsel, Proteon Therapeutics, Inc. (Kansas City, MO)
- Jeanne Johnson, Member LLC, Server Centric Consulting, LLC (St. Louis, MO)
- Alisa Shakespeare, Founder and President, Shakespeare's Chocolate (Davenport, IA)
- Elizabeth Niedringhaus, President, SSE, Inc. (St. Louis, MO)
- Thomas Taylor, General Manager, Vertegy (St. Louis, MO)
- Peter Spanos, Founder and CEO, Vetta Sports (St. Louis, MO)

Regional award winners will be eligible for consideration in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2009 national program. Winners in numerous national categories, as well as the overall national Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award winner, will be announced at the annual awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 14, 2009. The awards are the culminating event of the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies.

This year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year awards program celebrates its 23rd anniversary. The program has expanded to recognize business leaders in over 135 cities in 50 countries throughout the world. Awards are given to entrepreneurs who demonstrate extraordinary success in the areas of innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

Sponsors

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year awards are pleased to have SAP America and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as national sponsors.

Regional sponsors for the Central Midwest program include Lockton Companies, Inc. and *The Kansas City Star*. Locally, the program is sponsored by Faegre & Benson LLP, Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP and *Smart Business* magazine.

Contact information

To make reservations for the Entrepreneur Of The Year awards gala on June 4, 2009, contact Linda Wutich at +1 816 480 5334 or linda.wutich@ey.com. Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information about the program, please visit www.ey.com/us/eoy.

About Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year® Awards Program

Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The award makes a difference through the unique way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 135 cities in 50 countries.

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Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Worldwide, our 135,000 people are united by our shared values and an unwavering commitment to quality. We make a difference by helping our people, our clients and our wider communities achieve their potential.

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