

Business Leader Media - Exclusive News Release

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For immediate release

Finalists for Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award in the Carolinas announced

Charlotte, NC May 15, 2008 – Ernst & Young LLP and Business Leader Media are pleased to announce today the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award in the Carolinas. This group of exceptional entrepreneurs was selected by an independent judging panel made up of regional business, academic and community leaders. The winners will be revealed at a gala event on June 12, 2008 at the Westin Charlotte.

“These finalists are the best of the best, embodying the unique spirit of entrepreneurship,” said Kent Geer, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Program Director for the Carolinas. “They positively impact our region in a major way, through jobs, community growth and development and innovation. Ernst & Young is proud to salute them.”

The Carolinas finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award in 2008 are:

- Michelle Buelow, CEO and Founder, Bella Tunno – Charlotte, NC
- Joe Schmidt, Founder and President, Canvas on Demand – Raleigh, NC
- Thomas Lotrecchiano, CEO and Founder, Canvas on Demand – Raleigh, NC
- Richard Bryant, President and Founder, Capital Investment Group – Raleigh, NC
- Michael Collins, CEO, CEM Corporation – Matthews, NC
- Ray Ledford, President and CEO, Concrete Supply – Charlotte, NC
- Eugene Johnson, Chairman and CEO, Fairpoint Communications – Charlotte, NC

- Ryan Allis, CEO, iContact – Durham, NC
- Aaron Houghton, Chairman and Co-Founder, iContact – Durham, NC
- William Cobb, Chairman, CEO and President, JM Smith Corporation – Spartanburg, NC
- Richard McNeel, President and CEO, LORD Corporation – Cary, NC
- Randy Garrett, President, CEO and Founder, Mainline Contracting – Durham, NC
- Nicholas Gavalas, General Agent, Mass Mutual – Mount Pleasant, SC
- Jeff Reedy, President & CEO, Overture Networks – Morrisville, NC
- Robert Hatley, President and CEO, Paragon Commercial Bank – Raleigh, NC
- David Jones, Founder, President and CEO, Peak 10 – Charlotte, NC
- Matthew Szulik, Chairman, Red Hat – Raleigh, NC
- Thomas Millner, CEO, Remington Arms – Madison, NC
- Patricia Rodgers, President and CEO, Rodgers Builders – Charlotte, NC
- Stephen Wiehe, President and CEO, SciQuest – Cary, NC
- Elizabeth Perry, Managing Director and Founder, Signature Healthcare – Charlotte, NC
- Jordan Lipton, COO and Founder, Signature Healthcare – Charlotte, NC
- M. Bryan Woodward, Managing Director, Signature Healthcare – Charlotte, NC
- Christopher Kearney, CEO, President and Chairman, SPX Corporation – Charlotte, NC
- Michael Vadini, CEO, Founder and Chairman, TITAN Technology Partners – Charlotte, NC
- Adnan Mjalli, CEO, President and Chairman, Transtech Pharma – High Point, NC
- Susan Gravely, CEO and Founder, Vietri – Hillsborough, NC
- Jerry Henneghan, Founder and CEO, Virtual Heroes – Durham, NC

Additionally, Ken Lewis, chairman and CEO of Bank of America, will present Temple Sloan, founder and chairman of General Parts, with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award

Regional award winners will be eligible for consideration in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008 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 15, 2008. 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 22nd 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 the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and SAP America as national sponsors.

In the Carolinas, sponsors include King & Spalding, Bowne and Business Leader Media.

Contact information

To make reservations for the Entrepreneur Of The Year awards gala on June 12, 2008 contact Amanda Dudley of Ernst & Young at 704-331-1925 or amanda.dudley@ey.com by June 5, 2008. Tickets are \$200.00 per person. For more information about the program, please visit www.ey.com/us/eoy.

About Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year

Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year 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.

About Ernst & Young

Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Worldwide, our 130,000 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 potential.

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Business Leader Media is the exclusive print media sponsor for Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Of The Year for the Carolinas