



The Chamber Small Business Awards

Presented by:



This is the inaugural year of the EXPO Small Business Awards, presented by Welborn Health Plans. The Chamber Small Business Awards celebrate small businesses and the contributions they make to our communities and economy. The 2009 awards brunch will be held Thursday, March 12 at the 2009 Tri-State Business EXPO brunch that will be held at The Centre in Downtown Evansville.

Four Companies Recognized Annually

Each year in early March, we will recognize four Tri-State area small businesses that have excelled in the following award categories:

- **The Give Back Award**
- **The Entrepreneur of the Year Award**
- **Non-Profit Business of the Year Award**
- **The Small Business of the Year Award**

The award is given to the business, including all of the employees, not just the owners. We recognize the owner(s) have the vision and take the risk, but is the teamwork of all the employees that makes a successful company.

Award-winning companies are honored at a brunch attended by an average of over 300 people. The brunch not only serves as an opportunity to shine the spotlight on a Chamber member company who is excelling, but it is also the kickoff brunch for the Tri-State Business EXPO. During the awards presentation each recipient will share a life or business success tip with the audience. Each winning company will receive a beautiful, engraved glass award that they can proudly display at its office.

Award Categories and Criteria

The Give Back Award

The recipient of the Give Back Award exemplifies the following characteristics:

- Engages in the creation, organization, and/or mobilization of its employees to be involved in projects benefiting the greater community.
- Demonstrates sustained commitment to meeting community needs.
- Utilizes unique and creative approaches to meeting needs.
- Develops and fosters the virtues and skills of civic engagement and social responsibility within their company.

- Is a viable company that is a member of The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana.
- Has been in operation for at least two years.
- Maintain a responsible and rewarding workplace environment.

Entrepreneur of the Year

The recipient of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award exemplifies the following characteristics:

- The nominee demonstrates perseverance in the face of adversity and overcoming obstacles, learns from experience, fosters teamwork and builds loyalty.
- What new approaches of technologies have been implemented? What investment has been made in the Tri-State? How well does the nominee adapt to change and develop products and services ahead of the market?
- The nominee has earned respect from staff, competitors and advisers; is a strong communicator; influences others; and demonstrates involvement in the wider community.
- The nominee has made a noticeable impact in terms of job creation and leadership in the marketplace and is a regional, national or global player.
- Is a viable company that is a member of The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana.
- Have been in operation for at least two years.
- Maintain a responsible and rewarding workplace environment.

Non-Profit Business of the Year

The recipient of the Non-Profit Business of the Year Award exemplifies the following characteristics:

- The achievements of the organization must be relevant (i.e. should have taken place within approximately the last 12-18 months).
- Nominated organizations must be based in the Tri-State Area, even if their work serves populations outside of the Tri-State.
- Organizations nominated must be a nonprofit organization or a program of a nonprofit organization. Government entities, business entities and individuals are not eligible to apply.
- Provide a copy of non-profit status (must be 501 (c) 3 or 501 (c) 6 organization) certificate must be submitted with entry.
- Is a viable company that is a member of The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana.
- Have been in operation for at least two years.
- Maintain a responsible and rewarding workplace environment.

The Chamber Small Business of the Year

The recipient of The Chamber Small Business of the Year Award exemplifies the following characteristics:

- Must have 1-25 full-time equivalent employees (including all independent contractors)
- Business is physically located in the Tri-State region
- The nominee has earned respect from staff, competitors and advisers; is a strong communicator; influences others; and demonstrates involvement in the wider community.
- The nominee has made a noticeable impact in terms of job creation and leadership in the marketplace and is a regional, national or global player.

- Is a viable company that is a member of The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana.
- Have been in operation for at least two years.
- Maintain a responsible and rewarding workplace environment.

EXPO Small Business Award Organizers

The Chamber Small Business Award is a program of The Chamber, led by the marketing committee. The committee has worked together to develop the award criteria, award application process, award selections and award brunch program and ceremony.

We strive to recognize a mix of excellent small businesses that:

- Represent communities from the entire Tri-State area.
- Have less than 25 employees.
- Are strong supporters of The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana.

Nominations

Each year starting beginning on November 1, we solicit nominations from as many sources in the community as possible. This includes e-mails to small businesses and those that provide services to small businesses, business and civic associations, articles in The Chamber's newsletter, which is embedded in the Evansville Business Journal.

Anyone can nominate a company.

The nomination process is extremely easy and only takes about one minute.

Anyone can nominate more than one company.

A company only needs to be nominated once.

Award winners ARE NOT chosen by how many nominations they receive.

Self-nominations by employees and owners, nominations of minority and women-owned firms are encouraged.

Supplementary material is discouraged and will not be returned.

Award Selection Process

Representatives of the Southwest Indiana Small Business Development Center and The Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana will narrow the nominations to FIVE per category. An independent panel of Chamber member judges, who work for or own companies with more than 25 employees, will review the nominations received and decide on the recipient for each award. All five nominated companies per category will be recognized at the Awards Brunch.

The award recipient will be announced on March 12 at The Chamber Small Business Awards brunch.

Submit Nominations

To submit your nomination, complete EXPO Small Business Award Nomination Form or visit www.ccswin.com to submit an online nomination form. **The deadline nomination is Friday, January 30, 2009.** The nominee will receive a notification of their nomination. Contact Laurel Meny, Director of Marketing, for more information at 812.425.8147 or via e-mail at lmey@ccswin.com.