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April 20, 2007 03:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award in the Central Midwest Program Announced

Award Winners Revealed at Gala Event on June 28

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Ernst & Young LLP today announced the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2007 award in the Central Midwest region. This year's 29 finalist companies were selected by an independent judging panel composed of area business, academic and civic leaders. Award winners will be announced at a gala event on Thursday, June 28 at the Hyatt Crown Center in Kansas City.

"These finalists exemplify the outstanding business talent present in our community," said Randy Buseman, Partner with the Entrepreneur Of The Year program. "We are proud to honor them as leaders who nurture economic growth, innovation and the American dream."

The Central Midwest finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2007 award are:

- Abe Adewale, CEO, ABNA Engineering, Inc.
- Roger Hargens, President and CEO, Accumold Corporation
- Brent Blake, Co-President and Gary Davis, Co-President, All About Travel, Inc.
- Bryan Beaver, Chairman/CEO, CarterEnergy Corporation
- Douglas Albrecht, CEO, Centric Group, LLC
- Dr. Shri Thanedar, CEO, Chemir, Inc.
- John Lipinski, CEO and Stanley Riemann, COO, Coffeyville Resources LLC
- Gary Kiedaisch, President and CEO, The Coleman Company, Inc.
- Don DeWaay, CEO and Founder, DeWaay Capital Management
- David Dreiling, Founder, President and CEO, GTM Sportswear

- Michael Wurst, President and CEO, Henry Wurst Incorporated
- Robert Hartnett, CEO, Houlihan's Restaurants, Inc.
- Martin Rapp, CEO, Laird Technologies, Incorporated
- Stephen Maritz, Chairman and CEO, Maritz
- Sean Kelly, Vice President and Jeff Klusman, President, Planet Sub
- Michael Roberts, Founder, Chairman and CEO and Steven Roberts, President and COO, Roberts Hotels Group
- Clayton Jones, Chairman, President and CEO, Rockwell Collins, Inc.
- George Rothwell, Founder and Toby Rush, Founder and CEO, Rush Tracking Systems
- Tom Schlafly, President, The Saint Louis Brewery, Inc.
- Jennifer Williams, Founder, President and CEO, Saint Louis Closet Company
- Keith Jacob, President, St. Louis Staffing
- Kris Robbins, Chairman, President and CEO, Security Benefit
- David LeCompte, CEO and President, Short's Travel Management
- Ronald Kruszewski, Chairman, President and CEO, Stifel Financial Corp.
- Gregg Scheller, Chairman, President and CEO, Synergetics USA, Inc.
- Patrick Gavin, Founder and President, Text Link Ads
- Henry Herrmann, CEO, Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.
- James Kavanaugh, Chief Executive Officer, World Wide Technology, Inc.
- William Zollars, Chairman, President and CEO, YRC Worldwide, Inc.

Central Midwest award winners will be eligible for consideration for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2007 national program. Winners in several 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 17, 2007.

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year awards program celebrates its 21st anniversary this year

and continues to recognize the leaders and visionaries who are creating and building world-class businesses. Awards are given to entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as 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 Bank of America as the national presenting sponsor, as well as SAP America and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as national sponsors.

In the Central Midwest program, the local sponsors include Lockton Corporation, the law firms of Faegre & Benson and Kutak Rock, and the *Kansas City Star*.

Contact Information

To make reservations for the black tie awards event on June 28, contact Cheryl Yates of Ernst & Young at 816-480-5321 or cheryl.yates@ey.com by June 21. Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information about the awards program, visit www.ey.com/us/eoy.

About the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards

The Entrepreneur Of The Year® awards program was created and is produced by professional services firm Ernst & Young LLP. As the first award of its kind, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who are building and leading dynamic and growing businesses. The program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2006, honors entrepreneurs through regional, national and global award programs in over 125 cities and 40 countries.

About Ernst & Young

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Note to Editors: Media are invited to attend the awards banquet for interview and photo opportunities. Please Wendy Fox at 612-371-6703 as soon as possible to request a complimentary reservation. Press credentials must be presented.

Contacts

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