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Finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year(R) Award Announced in The Carolinas

(Friday, May 12th, 2006)

Finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year(R) Award Announced in The Carolinas; Award Recipients Named at Gala Event on June 15, 2006

The Carolinas Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Program

CHARLOTTE, N.C.–(BUSINESS WIRE)–May 12, 2006–Ernst & Young LLP today announced the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year(R) 2006 Award in the Carolinas. This year’s 24 finalists were selected from 75 nominations by an independent judging plan composed of area business, academic and civic leaders. Award recipients will be announced at a special 20th anniversary gala event on June 15, 2006 at The Westin Charlotte.

“This year’s finalists are true visionaries who have contributed to economic growth, innovation, and cutting-edge products and services,” said Kent Geer, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award program director for The Carolinas. “We proudly celebrate their achievements as we mark the 20th anniversary of this prestigious awards program.”

The Carolinas' finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2006 Award are:

- Lifetime Achievement Honoree: Hugh McColl - Former CEO, Bank Of America, Chairman, McColl Partners
- Alex Kiriakides - Chairman, Atlas Food Systems & Services, Inc (Greenville, SC)
- Bruton Smith - Chairman and CEO, Sonic Automotive, Inc & Speedway Motorsports, Inc. (Charlotte, NC)
- David Finch - President & CEO, ATCOM Business Telecom Solutions (RTP, NC)
- David Jones - President & CEO, Peak 10 (Charlotte, NC)
- David Swanson - CEO, R.H. Donnelley (Cary, NC)
- Eric Pike - Chairman, President & CEO, Pike Electric (Mount Airy, NC)
- Gary Cooper - President & CEO, Winyah Health Care Group, LLC (Georgetown, SC)
- Glenn Mosack - President & CEO, Conbraco Industries, Inc.- (Matthews, NC)
- Gordon Thornton - Founder, G.S.T. Enterprises (Charlotte, NC)
- James Ogle - CEO, INC Research, Inc. (Raleigh, NC)
- John Boyd - CEO, TIC Properties, LLC (Greenville, SC)
- John Campbell - CEO, Campbell Alliance (Raleigh, NC)
- Keith Luedeman - Founder & CEO, Goodmortgage.com (Charlotte, NC)

- Mark Laport - President & CEO, Concord Hospitality Enterprise Company (Raleigh, NC)
- Michael Dougherty - Chairman, President & CEO, Kindermusik International (Greensboro, NC)
- Michael Vadini - CEO, TITAN Technology Partners (Charlotte, NC)
- Nelson Marchioli - President & CEO, Denny's Corporation (Spartanburg, SC)
- Peter Durand - President & CEO, Integrian (RTP, NC)
- Philip Maung - President & CEO, Hissho Sushi (Charlotte, NC)
- Rusty Carter - President, Atlantic Packaging (Wilmington, NC)
- Scott Ray and Ryan Dienst - Founders, Global Medical Imaging, LLC (Charlotte, NC)
- Steve Fowler - President & CEO, Fowler Contracting (Cary, NC)
- Tony Prince - Chairman, President & CEO, LURHQ (Myrtle Beach, SC)
- Vicky Mitchener - President, Dickens-Mitchener & Associates (Charlotte, NC)

Carolinas' award recipients will be eligible for consideration for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2006 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 18, 2006.

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards program celebrates its 20th 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 is nationally sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In The Carolinas', local sponsors include Bank of America Private Bank, Marsh, The Triangle Business Journal and the law firm of Womble Carlyle.

Contact Information

To make reservations for the awards banquet on June 15, 2006, contact Amanda Dudley of Ernst & Young at 704-331-1925 or Amanda.dudley@ey.com by June 9, 2006. Tickets are \$200 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(R) 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(R) Award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who are building and leading dynamic and growing businesses. The program honors entrepreneurs through regional, national and global award programs in over 100 cities and 35 countries.

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Note to Editors: Media are invited to attend the awards banquet for interview and photo opportunities. Please call Amanda Dudley at (704) 331-1925 as soon as possible to request a complimentary reservation. Press credentials must be presented.

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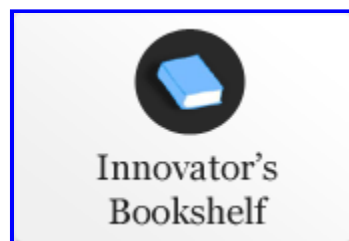
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