

NEWS RELEASE

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GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 22ND ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nine small businesses from throughout the region will be honored at a November 12th gala

PHILADELPHIA — The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 22nd Annual Small Business Excellence Awards, who will be honored for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the region at a gala celebration in November 2004.

The 2004 Small Business Excellence Awards winners are:

- **Lynda Barness, President, The Barness Organization;** Warrington, PA
Small Business Person of the Year
- **Andrew Sullivan, CEO, Refinery, Inc.;** Huntingdon Valley, PA
Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- **Rita's Water Ice Franchise Corp.;** Bensalem, PA
Retailer of the Year
- **The Carney Group;** Blue Bell, PA
Innovative Business of the Year
- **Gestalt, LLC;** King of Prussia, PA
Emerging Business of the Year
- **AchieveAbility;** Philadelphia, PA
Non-Profit Organization of the Year
- **Ehmke Manufacturing;** Philadelphia, PA
Manufacturer of the Year
- **Meyer Associates, Inc.;** Ardmore, PA
Customer Service Excellence of the Year
- **Morphotek, Inc.;** Exton, PA
Technology Company of the Year

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“The small businesses that the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce will honor at the Small Business Excellence Awards are a testament to perseverance, innovation, and community involvement,” said Mark S. Schweiker, President & CEO, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. “These companies and individuals represent the best that Greater Philadelphia has to offer and they are great examples of the type of success that can be achieved in our region. They deserve the highest accolades and we look forward to paying tribute to them at the Small Business Excellence Awards celebration.”

The Small Business Excellence Awards dinner-dance will be held on Friday, November 12, 2004 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia. WPVI-TV Consumer Reporter Nydia Han will serve as master of ceremonies.

Small Business Excellence Awards are presented to businesses with fewer than 100 employees. The honorees were chosen by the Small Business Excellence Awards Committee, which considers a nominee’s achievements, vitality, creativity, stability and impact. The winners are also judged on non-revenue generating qualities such as their civic involvement and responsibility, mentoring, employee recognition, and customer service.

Over the last 22 years, the Small Business Excellence Awards has been the region’s premier celebration of the exceptional achievements of small businesses and small business owners, which are the backbone of the Greater Philadelphia business community and comprise the majority of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce’s member business.

In 1982, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce’s Small Business Council, while identifying the needs of small companies, became aware of one of the most obvious and

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overlooked needs: recognition. To rectify this situation, the Chamber created the Small Business Excellence Awards, which recognized the success, achievements, leadership, and innovation of small businesses.

The 2004 Small Business Excellence Awards are sponsored by Bank of America, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, Blank Rome LLP, Commerce Bank, Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center, Innovation Philadelphia, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp., PNC Bank, and Wachovia Bank.

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About the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce consists of 5,500 members serving approximately 175,000 Philadelphia area employees. In 2003, the Chamber merged with Greater Philadelphia First and united the Greater Philadelphia business community under one organization with a renewed purpose. The “new” Chamber has set forth an agenda that includes more aggressive economy-building measures, the attraction and retention of businesses, and repositioning the Greater Philadelphia region as an international center of commerce. In addition, the Chamber hosts more than 150 programs and seminars throughout the year, reaching out to small, large and mid-sized businesses, as well as initiatives targeting women and the international and educational communities. The Chamber is also an active advocate on behalf of its members for a variety of issues on the local, state and federal levels. More information about the Chamber can be found online at www.philachamber.com.