

The 27th Annual Small Business Awards Celebration

hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County

A Business Paradise

www.HuntsvilleAlabamaUSA.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2012 CONTENDERS:

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Abby Glenn ~ A Quiet Cove Corp. Suites & Apartments | Foliage Design Systems |
| AEgis Technologies Group | Foreign Language Services, Inc. |
| Alabama Foundation Specialist, Inc. | GaN Corporation |
| Alabama Pain Center | H.G. Peake Company |
| Alabama Psychological Services Center, LLC | Hawk Enterprises, LLC |
| Amanda Howard | Huntsville Radio Service, Inc. |
| Axios Solutions, Inc. | Integration Innovation, Inc. (i3) |
| BID Designs, Inc. | Iroquoi Systems, Inc. |
| Brockwell Technologies, Inc. | KAYA Associates, Inc. |
| Casa Designs, LLC | LEAN Frog Business Solutions, Inc. |
| Cepeda Systems & Software Analysis, Inc. | LESCO |
| Cline-Morin Associates Inc. | MTS |
| Cummings Aerospace Digium, Inc. | NETWORx of Huntsville |
| Diversified Business Solutions | nLogic, Inc. |
| Dominion Salon & Spa | PeopleTec, Inc. |
| enGenius Consulting Group, Inc. | Pinnacle Solutions, Inc. |
| FASTSIGNS of Huntsville | Salon Allure, Inc. |
| Five Stones Research Corporation | Sentar, Inc. |
| Flint River Animal Hospital | Systems Products and Solutions, Inc. |
| | The PINNIX Group, Inc. |
| | Trideum Corporation |
| | Venturi, Inc. |
| | Yorktown Systems Group, Inc. |

RUSSELL G. BROWN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

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|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Michael Alvarez | Donna Coleman | Steve Hill | Nilmini Thompson |
| Ben Bayless, Jr. | Joni Green | Amanda Howard | Tim Thornton |
| Beverly Boylan | Cynthia Hart | Jonn Kim | Michael Wicks |
| | Byron Headrick | Caroline Myers | |

NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| ALS Association - Alabama Chapter | HEALS, Inc. |
| AUVSI Pathfinder Chapter | International Services Council of Alabama, Inc. |
| Better Business Bureau | Kids to Love Foundation |
| The CARE Center | National Children's Advocacy Center |
| Christmas Charities Year Round | Therapy Partners, Inc. |
| Community Ballet Association | |

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Karessa Acosta | Chad Gardner | Rebecca Jarrell | Christina Nickey |
| Drew Battle | Larkin Grant | John Jeffery | Cindi Peters-Tanner |
| Regina Burnett | Ginger Harper | Sarah Lauren Kattos | Brian Trefry |
| Angelo Coleman | Catherine Hereford | Sherrie Leeman | Anna Claire Vollers |
| Ashley Dinges | Amanda Howard | Lindsey Maples | Andrea Williams |
| Violet Edwards | Travis Jackson | Tony McGinnis | |

Foster Perry, Director of UAH Small Business Development Center, said Huntsville, Madison and Madison County provide a culture that is unique to many cities. He works in unison with the Chamber of Commerce, BizTech technology incubator and the WBCNA to bring programs and consulting services to those who need them.

"It is extraordinary, really, how people in this community are willing to help others find success in business, without requiring credit or expecting any success of their own from it," Perry said.

On the technology side, the Chamber works with BizTech, the Huntsville Association of Small Businesses in Advanced Technology (HASBAT), and with the SBA to help qualify companies for funding under the Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative for Advanced Defense Technologies (ADTs).

Small Business as an Engine for Economic Growth

When *Forbes* named Huntsville one of the Top 20 Leading Metros for Business in 2011, it was confirmation that Huntsville's aggressive approach to economic development and job growth provided a friendly environment for small business of all kinds.

Starting a small business is a risk. The Chamber helps start-up companies find useful information about taxes, business licensing and small business loans. They offer advice, training and consulting services to help entrepreneurs succeed.

According to Jimmar, "We have a diverse membership that consists of companies in defense and aerospace; health and wellness; business professional services from industries such as construction, beauty and luxury services, wholesale and retail, hospitality, manufacturing, technology, bio-medical / life sciences, and more."

In fact, of the 19,982 resident companies located in Madison County, 7,225 of them are self-employed businesses, and 10,637 of them have only two to nine employees.

Jimmar added, "You cannot discount the economic engine that is small business. In addition to the Fortune 500 companies located here, 89 percent of small business residing in Huntsville employs 40,626 people." (*YourEconomy.org*, 2009 data).

"We love our business community, and we want to encourage them to continue to have a positive and strong impact on the economy, schools and community," Bouldin said. "The Small Business Awards are our way of recognizing achievements and allowing these businesses to have their time to shine in recognition knowing that we appreciate their efforts."