



Chamber honors top small businesses

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Paul Hemmer Cos. and Wright Brothers took the top honors at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Small Business Excellence Awards Luncheon, held Wednesday at Duke Energy Center.

Hemmer, a Fort Mitchell-based real estate, construction and building services firm, was named Small Business of the Year in the 51-250 employees category, according to a news release.

Wright Brothers, a Blue Ash bioscience firm that produces and distributes specialty industrial gases, won Small Business of the Year in the 1-50 employees category.

The runners-up were Schiff, Kreidler-Shell in the 51-250 category; and Truepoint Capital LLC in the 1-50 category.

Other honorees were:

- Emerging Business of the Year: World Pac Paper LLC. Runner-up: Embrace - A Sweets Company LLC.
- Nonprofit of the Year: The Wellness Community. Runner-up: Crayons to Computers.
- Minority Business of the Year: Megen Construction Co. Runner-up: MBJ Consultants Inc.
- Retailer/Hospitality Business of the Year: Prestige Audio Visual. Runner-up: City Barbeque LLC.
- 10 under 10: Ten businesses were named in this category for companies with fewer than 10 employees. They are: Anthony Cole Training Group; Art Design Consultants; Aunt Flora and Co.; Best Practice Advisors LLC; Blue Whitespace; DHArchitects; Fresh Restaurant and Catering; Heaven & Earth Building Services Inc.; Holmes Training and Development; and Photonics Graphics Inc.

The chamber, at the luncheon, also announced the 2007 recipients of the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility for the Cincinnati market. They are: Barnes Dennig & Co.; the CSC Consulting Group; Deloitte & Touche USA LLP and subsidiaries; FS Creations Inc. and Physical Therapy Options Inc.

Jerry Kathman, president and CEO of branding firm LPK, gave the keynote address, "Building Leadership Brands by Design."