



*The Resource for Small and
Emerging Businesses*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVERLAND PARK, Kan. - *Kansas City Small Business Monthly* salutes the area's small businesses in the fourth annual 25 Under 25SM Awards. Included in this year's class of honorees are some builders, a bundler and a couple of publicity makers.

Each year *Kansas City Small Business Monthly*, the only local publication dedicated to small business, recognizes 25 outstanding Kansas City area businesses with fewer than 25 employees. The winners will be feted at an awards gala on February 26 and will be featured in a special section in the February 2005 issue of *Kansas City Small Business Monthly*. Until the 25 Under 25 AwardsSM, no formal recognition program existed in the Kansas City area that specifically targeted businesses of this size. Yet this segment of business comprises the largest number of companies both locally and nationally, with roughly 83 percent of Kansas City area and 86 percent of businesses nationwide employing 19 or fewer employees.

Nominated companies must meet the following basic criteria:

- Employ fewer than 25 full-time employees (or full-time equivalents)
- Operate a for-profit business for three (3) or more years
- Be located within the Greater Kansas City area

Nominations are accepted from the business community from September 1 to November 1 each year. Qualified nominees complete an application and provide additional support materials that are reviewed by a panel of third-party judges from the business community. The panel of judges reviews the applicants and selects the final 25 honorees based on financial soundness; ability to overcome obstacles or challenges; community involvement; unique qualities; and company vision.

The awards dinner and gala will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2005, at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park. The evening's events will be choreographed around the theme "Small Business: The Soul of Kansas City" and include a jazz band. The gala also will honor the winner of the Entrepreneurial Legacy Award, which is given annually to an individual whose contributions to entrepreneurship have had an enduring impact. This year's winner is Carol Marinovich, Mayor/CEO of Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan. Mayor Marinovich was instrumental in including small business as part of the plans for the revitalization of Kansas City, Kan. and Wyandotte County.

The evening's other highlights are a dinner, the 25 Under 25SM Awards presentations, and video salutes leading Kansas City business luminaries. For ticket information, please call (913) 432-6690.

And the winners are:

Adams-Gabbert & Associates Inc., Lee's Summit, MO
Bartunek Technology Group, Overland Park, KS
Caption Services of Kansas LLC, Lawrence, KS
Design Supply Inc., Kansas City, MO
Greenleaf Construction Co. Inc., Kansas City, MO
Jantsch Slaggie Architects, Kansas City, MO
Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, Kansas City, MO
NCES, Inc., Olathe, KS
Prairiebrooke Arts, Overland Park, KS
Reynolds Consulting, Lee's Summit, MO
Take Two Productions, Kansas City, MO
Union Packaging, Kansas City, MO
Wrenn Insurance, Mission, KS

Allstate Specialty Construction Inc., Paola, KS
BuiltToLastHome.com, Liberty, MO
CommWorld of Kansas City, Grandview, MO
ESC Index, Overland Park, KS
HOTMETAL Creative LLC, Kansas City, MO
L.R. Cloverleaf Inc., Overland Park, KS
Nature's Window, Gladstone, MO
Pegasus Capital Management Inc., Overland Park, KS
ProPrint Inc., North Kansas City, MO
Sturges Word, Kansas City, MO
The Best of Kansas City, Kansas City, MO
Versent—The Purple Guys, Kansas City, MO

For further information on these businesses, please contact Kansas City Small Business Monthly, (913) 432-6690.