

NEWS RELEASE

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Howard County Chamber Announces ACE Award Recipients

September 23, 2009 [Columbia, MD] - The Howard County Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the recipients of its annual Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE). There are nine categories for these awards and competition for each was strong.

“In Howard County, where motivation, achievement and participation are high, it is a tough assignment to select the few that rise above the rest,” stated Pam Klahr, Howard County Chamber President and CEO. “I think, however, that all will agree that our 2009 award recipients are truly outstanding.”

The ACE awards will be presented at the 2009 Signature Event, which will be held at Turf Valley Resort on Friday, October 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the award presentations, the event features live entertainment, a gala dinner and pre- and post-dinner receptions. Three award announcements will be withheld until the evening of the event. They are the Chairman’s Award for Volunteer Service, the Business Advocate of the Year, and the Exemplar Award.

CQI Associates will receive the Small Business of the Year award. This company provides consulting services to public and private clients by offering programs that optimize energy consumption and reduce environmental liability. CQI Associates worked with the Howard County Chamber to establish an energy cooperative, benefiting its members. The company also worked with Chamber businesses and the county officials to launch a county-wide recycling program on Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

The Large Business of the Year is Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC). With three separate company sectors located in Howard County, the company generates a statewide economic impact in excess of \$2 billion annually. NGC has a long tradition of community outreach, with a particular emphasis on programs that encourage young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (S.T.E.M.).

The Business Person of the Year is awarded to someone who has fostered the growth of business, demonstrating a history of business development that has contributed to the county’s overall economic well-being and quality of life. This person has served on several non-profit boards, where he has donated his expertise and capital to benefit those in need. J.P., Bolduc, founder and Chief Executive Officer of JPB Enterprises, Inc., will be honored as the Chamber’s 2009 Business Person of the Year.

This year’s BRAC Advocates of the Year are Patty Keeton, Executive Director of Workforce Development in Howard Community College’s division of Continuing Studies, and Dr. Sam Seymour, Vice Chair, Systems Engineering Program, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Both of these BRAC Advocates have been volunteers on the BRAC Task Force,

since its inception in 2006, and have assumed leadership roles to facilitate planning for Fort Meade's projected growth.

The story behind the emergence and growth of Quality Associates, Inc. (QAI) is unique and will appeal to all enterprising men and women. Learn about the role that this year's Entrepreneur of the Year, Paul Swidersky, founder and CEO of QAI, will play in the distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine at the 2009 Signature Event.

Kristi Simon, an Agent for O'Donovan & Associates, also volunteers for the Young Professional Network (YPN) division of the Chamber. She has demonstrated leadership both as an Ambassador and as a member of the Chamber's Legislative Committee. The Chamber will be recognizing Kristi Simon as its Young Professional of the Year.

"The Chamber is comprised of exceptional business men and women, who not only excel in their fields, but also in their volunteer commitments. The ACE Awards are one way we can highlight their accomplishments and celebrate their success," said Joseph Mezzanotte, Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors and Partner at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP.

The Signature Event is the Chamber's premier event of the year. One of the largest events for Howard County's business community, the event was a sellout in 2008 with 600 guests. Sponsored by M&T Bank and Turf Valley Resort, this year's featured entertainer is accomplished singer, impressionist, humorist and former ESPN host, Roy Firestone. For additional information or to purchase tickets, call the Chamber office at 410-730-4111 or register online at www.howardchamber.com.

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