

## Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2011 Central Midwest Award Winners Announced

*Exemplary entrepreneurs were honored at program's 25th anniversary gala*

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Ernst & Young LLP is pleased to announce the 2011 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Central Midwest Award winners. This group of leading entrepreneurs was selected by an independent judging panel made up of previous winners of the award, leading CEOs, private capital investors and other regional business leaders. The winners were revealed at a gala event on June 7 at the Sheraton in Overland Park, Kansas.

### **“Ernst & Young has honored outstanding entrepreneurs like this year’s winners for the past 25 years”**

“Ernst & Young has honored outstanding entrepreneurs like this year’s winners for the past 25 years,” said Randy Buseman, Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur Of The Year Central Midwest Program Director. “These business leaders have accomplished so much and contributed a tremendous amount to the community. They give us hope for what the next 25 years of entrepreneurs will bring.”

The Central Midwest region includes companies based in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur Of The Year 2011 Central Midwest winners are:

- Clean Technology: **Todd Becker — Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc.** (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Financial Services: **H. Kevin Birzer, David Schulte, Kenneth Malvey, Terry Matlack and Zachary Hamel — Tortoise Capital Advisors, LLC** (Leawood, Kansas)
- Master Entrepreneur: **David Brain — Entertainment Properties Trust** (Kansas City, Missouri)
- Health Care Services: **Michael DiMarco — The Outsource Group** (St. Louis, Missouri)
- Turnaround Entrepreneur: **Ira Glazer — WireCo WorldGroup** (Kansas City, Missouri)
- Retail: **Jeff Gordman — Gordmans Stores, Inc.** (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Emerging: **Jennifer L. Labit — Cotton Babies, Inc.** (St. Louis, Missouri)
- Manufacturing: **Chuck Hammond, Jr. — Raining Rose, Inc.** (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
- Technology: **Robert Thompson and Dr. Murray Lappe — eScreen, Inc.** (Overland Park, Kansas)

The Entrepreneur Of The Year Program honors entrepreneurs regionally in June, leading up to the national awards in November. Additionally, venture-backed companies that win an Entrepreneur Of The Year Award regionally are also eligible for the Entrepreneur Of The Year Venture Capital Award of Excellence on a national level. The overall National US winner then moves on to compete for the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award in June.

This year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Program celebrates its 25th anniversary. The program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 140 cities and more than 50 countries throughout the world. Awards are given to entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

All regional honorees are invited to the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala, hosted by Jay Leno, on November 12, 2011, in Palm Springs, California. The gala is the culminating event of the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum®, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies. For more information on the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum, please visit [www.ey.com/us/strategicgrowthforum](http://www.ey.com/us/strategicgrowthforum).

## **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are pleased to have the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as a national sponsor.

In the Central Midwest, sponsors include *Smart Business* magazine and Enterprise Bank & Trust. Locally, the program is sponsored by Lockton Companies, Inc., Faegre & Benson LLP, Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP, Armstrong Teasdale LLP and Common Ground Public Relations.

For more information about the program, please visit [www.ey.com/us/eoy](http://www.ey.com/us/eoy).

## **About Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year**

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential, and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 140 cities in more than 50 countries.

## **About Ernst & Young**

Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Worldwide, our 141,000 people are united by our shared values and an unwavering commitment to quality. We make a difference by helping our people, our clients and our wider communities achieve their potential.

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