

List of honorees for 2007 Best In Business awards program narrowed to 15

2007 Best In Business luncheon

When: 11:30 a.m., June 28.

Where: Hyatt Regency Wichita.

Sponsors: UMB Bank; Wichita State University's Center for Entrepreneurship; Sullivan, Higdon & Sink Inc.; and the Wichita Business Journal.

BY LAINIE RUSCO

Fifteen Wichita-area businesses have been chosen as finalists for the second Best In Business awards program, planned for late June.

Best In Business honors privately held companies for their revenue growth, community involvement, mar-

filed in a June 29 special publication.

Of the 15 businesses, five winners will be announced. The winning companies' CEOs and their spouses will go on an all-expenses-paid trip with the sponsors to the Monterey, Calif., area from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, says Craig Anderson, presi-

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keting and product innovation.

A luncheon and awards banquet will be held at 11:30 a.m., June 28 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. The 15 finalists will be honored, and each company will be pro-

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The final 15 ...

The finalists for the 2007 Best In Business event listed in alphabetical order.

- Airtechnics Inc.
- Ballard Aviation Inc.
- Cox Machine Inc.
- Martin K. Eby Construction Co. Inc.
- Fahnstock Plumbing, HVAC and Electric.
- Greteman Group.
- High Touch Inc.
- ICM Inc.
- Integrated Solutions Inc.
- Key Construction Inc.
- McCormick Armstrong.
- Parks Inc.
- Ritchie Building Co.
- Star Lumber and Supply Co. Inc.
- Yingling Aviation.

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dent of UMB Bank, which is underwriting the trip.

Other sponsors include Allen, Gibbs & Houlik LC; Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer LLP; Wichita State University's Center for Entrepreneurship; Sullivan, Higdon & Sink Inc.; and the Wichita Business Journal. The Hyatt is the event host.



Anderson



Pett

What makes these awards unique is that they focus on other aspects of a business, not just its financial success, says Tim Pett, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship. Things such as community involvement, he says, are good indications of a strong business.

"I think it's important that what they do every day does matter in their businesses," Pett says.

Paul Allen, managing partner of AGH, says there was a strong and diverse field of nominees for this year's awards. He thinks each company that's recognized — as either a finalist or winner — will benefit from the process.



Allen

"Last year ... the companies that were involved found that it was great recognition with the community and their employees," he says. "And I think it creates a good sense of pride."

Jeff Kennedy, managing partner of Martin Pringle, says as a sponsor, he enjoys being part of an event that helps employers and their staff feel proud of the business where they work.



Kennedy

"As a company that tries to pride itself in doing things the right way, we felt it was important to recognize other companies that are clearly doing things the right way," he says. "I think people like to be told they're doing a good job once in a while."

For more information regarding the luncheon, call Melody Lindensmith at 267-6406 or e-mail her at mlindensmith@bizjournals.com.