

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Clermont Chamber Annual Meeting to Recognize Small Business Best Practices

The Clermont Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Small Business Awards Luncheon of the will take place on Friday, February 8, 2008 from 11:15 – 1:00 at Holiday Inn Eastgate. Since the year 2000, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce has annually recognized the significant contributions that small businesses make to the local, state and national economies with the presentation of five awards to its member businesses at the Annual Meeting.

Small businesses are vital to the US economy. Key facts related to the importance of small businesses, sourced by the US Small Business Administration, US Bureau of Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Commerce and the Internation Trade Administration are that small businesses represent more than 99.7 percent of all employers, employ more than half of all private-sector employees, pay 44.5 percent of total U.S. private payroll, generate 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually, create more than 50 percent of non-farm private gross domestic product (GDP), supplied 22.8 percent of the total value of federal prime contracts (about \$50 billion) in FY 2001, produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large patenting firms, employ 39 percent of high tech workers (such as scientists, engineers, and computer workers), and make up 89 percent of all identified exporters.

The Chamber is pleased to announce the following winners of the 2007 Small Business Best Practices Awards:

Business Advocate Award

This award is presented each year to an individual actively advancing and/or protecting the interests of small businesses.

The 2007 award will be presented to **Peggy Stookey**.



Peggy is President/CEO for Loveland-based Legacy Connection. The mission of Legacy Connection is to positively affect the success rates of small business in Greater Cincinnati by building an enlightened community dedicated to nurturing business builders and the relationships critical for their success.

Peggy knows it is not enough to have the million-dollar idea. The passion of the business builder must be coupled with education, support and mentoring. Peggy is dedicated to building an enlightened business community; a community that teaches, supports, cooperates and collaborates with one another so that each member can become their competitive best!"

Emerging Small Business Award

This award recognizes an organization with entrepreneurial spirit that is positioning itself to grow substantially into the future.

The award winner for 2007 is **Burd Brothers Inc.**



Shaun, Dick and Tyler Burdick

J. Richard (Dick) Burdick incorporated this Batavia area company in 1993, using leased trucks. In 1995, he expanded to include warehouse and distribution services. By 2002, Burd Brothers offered these services to the continental 48 states, Canada and Mexico. Today, Dick and his two sons run 80,000 square feet of warehouse space with 30,000 square feet meeting HC-3 HazMat requirements. Burd Brothers also provides a full range of transportation options with owned equipment that includes utility vans, air ride vans, lift gate trucks, 48' and 53' trailers, 24 straight trucks, and flat beds and reefers.

Burd Brothers Inc. employs over forty and is actively considering the need for more space.

Finalists for this award included Current Electrical & Lighting Supply and Mt. Carmel Brewing Company.

Customer Focus Award

This award recognizes an organization that has implemented policies that demonstrate a commitment to customers by showing extreme attention to detail and follow up.

The 2007 award for customer focus goes to **E. C. Nurre Funeral Home Inc.**



Edward Nurre, Jr. and Robert Hobson

One of the cornerstones of their 135-year tradition of service is the belief that caring and compassion at the time of loss continues well beyond the actual funeral. That is why customers can be assured that E. C. Nurre will take care of every detail, and provide them with the professional, personal service they deserve. Beforehand, E. C. Nurre professionals listen carefully to customer wishes and desires, understanding that each family is different. E. C. Nurre offers a wide variety of services and options that help family members personalize the funeral to appropriately commemorate and memorialize the person who has died.

E. C. Nurre Funeral Home Inc. has locations in Amelia, New Richmond and Bethel.

The other finalists for this award were Kamphaus, Henning & Hood CPA and the Clermont County Veterans' Service Office.

Innovative Business Practices Award

This award goes to an organization demonstrating unique and innovative practices, products or procedures.

The 2007 award winner is **DigiLore**.

This company, based in Park 50 TechneCenter, is breaking new ground in learning lifecycle management. Their innovative software products are already in use in education, insurance and with the USAF.

Per Bill Wienhoff at National Underwriters, *“At NUCO we want to provide our end users with the finest online training materials available in the insurance and financial marketplace and Learning Control Center helps make that possible. The company is great to work with and their customer service and support are second to none.”*

In October 2006, DigiLore received its second SBIR grant from the USAF to research and develop techniques for embedded learning for aircraft maintenance workers. In July 2007, DigiLore announced a \$2 million software grant program to help schools meet education and continuous improvement requirements.

New Member of the Year

This award recognizes an organization or individual that has become a Chamber member within the past 24 months and has shown initiative in becoming an active participant in various aspects of the Chamber.

For 2007, the award winner is **Jenny Matthews**.



Jenny is an account executive with Schiff, Kreidler-Shell. Upon joining the Clermont Chamber in January 2007, Jenny immediately thrust her efforts into committee involvement with the golf outing and events committees. She was a strong contributor to the very successful and first ever Women’s Day Event. She also brought her company on board as a sponsor for the Holiday Homecoming. In her short tenure with the Clermont Chamber of Commerce, Jenny has become a dedicated spokesperson for the chamber and for its mission.

Reservations for the Annual Meeting and Small Business Awards Luncheon may be made by calling the Clermont Chamber of Commerce at 513-576-5000. The luncheon is \$35 for Chamber members, \$45 for non Chamber members and table sponsorships are available for \$500.

Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce promotes local and regional business through business attraction, retention & expansion, educational and networking opportunities, business consulting assistance and business advocacy for the over 1100 Clermont Chamber Members. Find us at www.clermontchamber.com. The current President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chair of the Board is Charles H. Gerhardt III of Government Strategies Group LLC.