



UNLEASHING INNOVATION & GROWTH

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***Michigan Celebrates Small Business* Announces Award Winners to be Honored on May 7 in Lansing**

MICHIGAN, March 11, 2015 – Nearly 60 companies from across the state will be honored at the eleventh annual ***Michigan Celebrates Small Business* event on May 7, 2015, at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing.** Awards include the *Michigan 50 Companies to Watch*, Main Street USA, Small Business Innovation, Government Contractor of the Year, Small Business Person of the Year, Small Business Exporter of the Year, and more.

The *Michigan 50 Companies to Watch* Award, sponsored by Michigan Celebrates Small Business, honors growth-oriented businesses based on market expansion, job creation, technological innovation, and community impact. Companies represent a wide variety of industries. To be considered, companies must be privately held and headquartered in Michigan, have between six and 99 employees and generate between \$750,000 to \$50 million in annual revenue, or have working capital from investors or received grants in 2014. The 2015 *Michigan 50 Companies to Watch* are as follows and are also listed on the program website at <http://www.michigancelebrates.biz/the-event/2015-award-winners/>.

A&B Packing Equipment, Inc. – Lawrence
AirTime Trampoline & Game Park – Novi
Algal Scientific – Northville
AlSentis – Holland
Apex Digital Solutions – Sterling Heights
ARMOR Protective Packaging – Howell
Bay Carbon, Inc. – Bay City
BEET Analytics Technology, LLC – Plymouth
Benzinga – Southfield
Beyond Gaming, LLC – Birmingham
Blackford Capital – Grand Rapids
Boxed Water is Better, LLC – Grand Rapids
Care N Assist – Corunna
Creative Studio Promotions – Grand Rapids
Detroit Labs – Detroit
Detroit Gun Works – Troy
Digital Roots – Northville
Endurance Carbide – Saginaw
Energy Power Systems – Troy
Firstronic, LLC – Grand Rapids
FirstSense Medical – Pontiac
Genius Phone Repair – Kentwood
Gillespie Group – Lansing
Grand River Aseptic Manufacturing, Inc. – Grand Rapids
HistoSonics, Inc. – Ann Arbor
InfoReady Corporation – Ann Arbor

Innovative Learning Group – Royal Oak
jacapps – Bingham Farms
Jorgensen Steel Machining & Fabrication, Inc. – Tekonsha
Kuntzsch Solutions – Grand Ledge
Marvel Apps, LLC – Royal Oak
Mighty Good Coffee Roasting Company – Ann Arbor
New Eagle – Ann Arbor
NewFoundry – Ann Arbor
NxGen MDx – Grand Rapids
Oxford Companies – Ann Arbor
Petoskey Brewing – Petoskey
Polly Products – Mulliken
Redi-Rock International – Charlevoix
Rickman Enterprise Group, LLC – Detroit
Rubicon Genomics – Ann Arbor
SpinDance – Holland
Spud Software – Grand Blanc Township
Stardust Memorials – Traverse City
Sun Title – Grand Rapids
SunFrog Shirts, LLC – Gaylord
Tawas Plating Co. & Tawas Power Coating, Inc. – Tawas City
Troy Gymnastics – Troy
Varsity News Network – Grand Rapids
XG Sciences – Lansing

“This year’s theme, Unleashing Innovation and Growth, has produced an inspiring set of awardees,” said Diane Durance, president of MiQuest (the Managing Partner for *Michigan Celebrates Small Business*). Durance continued with, “The companies to be honored on May 7 collectively achieved more than \$308 million in total revenue and employed 1,748 people in 2014. This year, they’re planning to create 798 new jobs.”

Additional Small Business Award winners include:

- **Main Street USA** – Walker-Miller Energy Services, LLC – Detroit
- **Small Business Innovation** – Civionics, LLC – Ann Arbor

- **Government Contractor of the Year** – Oldenburg Group – Kingsford

Underwriters include: Michigan Economic Development Corporation, PNC Bank, Varnum, Consumers Energy, DTE Energy Foundation, Hungerford Nichols, Michigan Credit Union League, Accident Fund, Edge Partnerships, Michigan Business Network, MessageMakers, Rehmann, Clark Hill and Dynamic Edge, Inc.

Michigan Celebrates Small Business was launched in 2005 by the Michigan Small Business Development Center, U.S. Small Business Administration, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Edward Lowe Foundation, Small Business Association of Michigan, and Chris Holman – Small Business Advocate. MiQuest is the Managing Partner for *Michigan Celebrates Small Business*. The mission is to highlight the contributions small businesses make to the state's economy. Nearly 1,000 are expected to attend this year's event. For details and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.michigancelebrates.biz>.

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