



Press release

EY announces Finalists for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2016 Southeast

4 May 2016

EY today announced the finalists for the [Entrepreneur Of The Year 2016 Southeast Program](http://www.ey.com/US/en/About-us/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneur-Of-The-Year/SEA_SEP_Article_Overview_Page_Main) (http://www.ey.com/US/en/About-us/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneur-Of-The-Year/SEA_SEP_Article_Overview_Page_Main). This year marks the 30th anniversary of the awards program. The award recognizes entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. The business leaders were selected by a [panel of independent judges](http://www.ey.com/US/en/About-us/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneur-Of-The-Year/2016_EOY_FL_Judges) ([http://www.ey.com/US/en/About-us/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneur-Of-The-Year/2016 EOY FL Judges](http://www.ey.com/US/en/About-us/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneur-Of-The-Year/2016_EOY_FL_Judges)), and award recipients will be announced at the black-tie gala on June 23, 2016, at the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum in Nashville, Tennessee.

The 29 finalists and Lifetime Achievement honoree for the Southeast program are:

Lifetime Achievement honoree – Jeffrey S. Lorberbaum

Chairman & CEO, Mohawk Industries, Inc.

Vernon J. Nagel – Acuity Brands, Inc., Atlanta, GA

Dr. Donald Bruce Irwin – American Family Care, Birmingham, AL

Christopher A. Holden – AMSURG, Nashville, TN

Paul Brown – Arby's Restaurants Group, Inc., Atlanta, GA

Michael Praeger – AvidXchange, Charlotte, NC

Chris Butlak – Barringer Construction, Charlotte, NC

Chris Frye – Barringer Construction, Charlotte, NC

Tim Miller – Barringer Construction, Charlotte, NC

Catherine Downey – CATMEDIA, Tucker, GA

Mark Claypool – Chancelight Behavioral Health, Therapy & Education, Nashville, TN

Brandon Evans – Clintrax Global, Inc., Raleigh, NC

Duane LeGate – Commissions, Inc., Marietta, GA

Jack Demao – Electric Guard Dog, Columbia, SC

Robert Echols, Jr. – Essex Technology Group dba BargainHunt, La Vergne, TN

David Zalik – GreenSky, Atlanta, GA

Robert A. Frist, Jr. – HealthStream, Nashville, TN

Rebecca Lee Loranger – Lakeside Project Solutions, LLC, Denver, NC

Sherry Stewart Deutschmann – LetterLogic, Inc., Nashville, TN

Ben Chestnut – MailChimp, Atlanta, GA

J. Wes Smith – Mayer Electric Supply Co., Inc., Birmingham, AL

Elizabeth Featheringill Pharo – Momentum Telecom, Birmingham, AL

Kevin Nolan – Nolan Transportation, Roswell, GA

Van Isley – Professional Builders Supply, LLC, Morrisville, NC

James M. Whitehurst – Red Hat, Raleigh, NC

Nate Morris – Rubicon Global, Atlanta, GA

Brian Hamilton – Sageworks, Raleigh, NC

Dave North – Sedgwick, Memphis, TN

Hemen Vimadalal – Simeio Solutions, Atlanta, GA

Syed Ahmed – VDart, Inc., Alpharetta, GA

“As leaders in innovation and business, this group of finalists represent a bright future for entrepreneurship in the Southeast,” said Brad Duncan, EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Program Principal. “We look forward to celebrating their successes and 30 years of ingenuity with these finalists at the gala.”

Now in its 30th year, the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries throughout the world.

The Entrepreneur Of The Year Program honors entrepreneurs regionally in June. All regional honorees will then be invited to the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala on November 19, 2016, in Palm Springs, California. The national gala is the culminating event of the EY Strategic Growth Forum®, the nation’s most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies. For more information on the EY Strategic Growth Forum, please visit [ey.com/us/sgf](http://www.ey.com/us/sgf) (<http://www.ey.com/us/sgf>). The US Overall Award recipient will go on to compete for the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ title in Monaco the following June.

Sponsors

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are nationally sponsored by SAP Americas, Merrill Corporation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Southeast Platinum sponsors are King & Spalding, PNC Bank and Vaco. Southeast Gold sponsor Bass, Berry & Sims. Southeast Silver sponsor Chatham Financial.

Contact information

To get more information about the program, contact: [Kristina McLendon](#).

About EY Entrepreneur Of The Year®

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world’s most prestigious business awards program for entrepreneurs. The program 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 awards program 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 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

About EY’s Strategic Growth Markets practice

EY’s worldwide Strategic Growth Markets Network is dedicated to serving the changing needs of high-growth companies. For more than 30 years, we’ve helped many of the world’s most dynamic and ambitious companies grow into market leaders. Whether working with international, mid-cap companies or early stage,

venture-backed businesses, our professionals draw upon their extensive experience, insight and global resources to help your business succeed. [ey.com/sgm](http://www.ey.com/sgm) (<http://www.ey.com/sgm>). Follow our news on Twitter [@EY_Growth](https://twitter.com/EY_Growth) (https://twitter.com/EY_Growth).

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