

Business Excellence Award nominees revealed by chamber

The nominees for the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce annual Business Excellence Awards in seven categories have been revealed, with the winners to be unveiled at a gala dinner Oct. 21 at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort during Small Business Week.

"As we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the Business Excellence Awards and recognize this talented group of entrepreneurs, we are impressed with the depth and breadth of Kelowna's dynamic business community," said Weldon LeBlanc, CEO for the Kelowna chamber. "We are equally inspired by the innovation and tenacity demonstrated by the finalists and their companies."

Nominated businesses must have been operating for more than three years (with the exception of the Rising Star Award) and have a letter from their bankers or accountants confirming that they are financially sound.

Farris, Vaughan, Wills and Murphy LLP's Kelowna office, together with the chamber and the Business Development Bank of Canada are sponsoring this year's awards. Tickets for the awards dinner are \$89 each and can be purchased by calling Allison Conroy at the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce office, 250-469-7350.

The 209 finalists include:

RIISING STAR AWARD (in business less than three years)

- Kelowna Regional Fertility Center
- SZ Innovative Products Group Ltd.
- Vineyard Networks

SMALL BUSINESS AWARD (1-10 employees)

- Interior Tax and File and Small Business Services
- Modern Pur Air Inc.
- Orchard & Vine Magazine
- Platinum Personnel & Business Services

MID-SIZE BUSINESS AWARD (11-30 employees)

- CBD Network
- JDS Energy and Mining
- Vedanta Academy

LARGE BUSINESS AWARD (31+ employees)

- Expert Hearing Group
- CTQ Consultants Ltd.
- Paragon Pharmacies

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

- Big Brothers and Sisters of the Okanagan
- Kelowna Art Gallery
- United Way of the Central & South Okanagan
- Women's Enterprise Society

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

(individual under 34 years of age)

- Raegan Hall, Blonde
- Angela Reid, Tigress Ventures
- Mark and Todd Reiger, Prestige Collision