



FOR RELEASE
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The Entrepreneur Strikes Back
23rd Annual Small Business Awards

Honoring those organizations and individuals that are helping the community continue to thrive and prosper, the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County recently held its annual tribute to the area's small businesses, while honoring non-profit organizations, the young professional of the year and the entrepreneur of the year. The 2008 awards featured a record 93 nominations, 18 of which were finalists.

According to Elizabeth Morard, the Chamber's vice chair for small business and the president/CEO of Qualis Corporation, the number of nominees is a clear indicator of the success of small business in Huntsville and the strength of the Huntsville economy. "The awards event is an inspiring showcase of the caliber of talent and contributions of area small businesses to the community."

Evans Quinlivan, chairman of the Chamber's board of directors and the Northeast Alabama market executive with RBC Bank, praised all of the winners and nominees for the impact they have had on the Huntsville/Madison County community.

"All of you in this room are helping our community grow and succeed at nearly unprecedented levels, and while only a select few will be honored, you are all the envy of many other communities," Quinlivan said.

2008 Small Business Award Finalists and Winners

Personal Services

Nesin Therapy Services, P.C. - Winner

Average to Art, Inc.

Eagle Collision Center, Inc.

Business Services

AZ Technology

T & W Operations, LLC -- Winner

LESCO

Technology

System, Studies and Simulation, Inc. (S3) - Winner

Digium, Inc.

Gleason Research Associates, Inc.

Non-profit

The Volunteer Center of Madison County

The Land Trust of Huntsville & North Alabama – Winner

Kids to Love Foundation

Young Professional of the Year

Olly Orton – Smith Barney

Jay E. Town – Madison County’s District Attorney’s Office

Allison Gillespie Trefry – Huntsville Museum of Art -- Winner

Entrepreneur of the Year

Jan Smith, System Studies & Simulation, Inc. (S3) - Winner

Anita Williams, LESCO

Andy Bevilacqua, Bevilacqua Research Corporation

The event, presented by Redstone Federal Credit Union, featured hosts Bob Ludwig, publisher for *The Huntsville Times* and 2004 Executive of the Year winner and 3-D Research Founder Lisa Williams.