



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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