



WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN THE 2007 CONNECTICUT FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS!

Schmitt-Sussman Enterprises, Motorlease Corporation, and The Hawley Companies achieve top honors at the University of Connecticut Family Business Program's 12th annual Connecticut Family Business of the Year Awards Ceremony

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The University of Connecticut Family Business Program announced the winners of the 2007 Connecticut Family Business of the Year Awards 12th Anniversary Celebration. This prestigious award honors Connecticut family firms that embody core family values and the best of American free enterprise. Nine finalists were honored at the ceremony held at the University of Connecticut's South Campus Rome Ballroom on Wednesday, November 14th 2007.

The Connecticut Family Business of the Year Awards recognize successful family firms in three categories: small-sized businesses, medium-sized businesses and large-sized businesses. Winners were chosen by a panel of judges and evaluated based on business success, positive family and business linkage, multi-generational family involvement, dynamic contributions to community and industry, and innovative business practices or strategies. The 2007 Connecticut Family Business of the Year Award winners are:

Small Business Category

1st Place: The Hawley Companies; Danbury
1st Runner-up: Cavaliere Industries, Inc.; Stamford
Finalist: BGR Radiator; Plainfield

Medium Business Category

1st Place: Motorlease Corporation; Farmington
1st Runner-up: Century Spring Mfg. Co., Inc.; Bristol
Finalist: Teddy's Transportation System, Inc.; Norwalk

Large Business Category

1st Place: Schmitt Sussman Enterprises, Inc.; Orange
1st Runner-up: Curtis Packaging Corporation; Sandy Hook
Finalist: ProMold Plastics; Cromwell



Champion of family values, entrepreneurship and empowerment, Doris Christopher, Founder and Chairman of The Pampered Chef®, presented the keynote address kicking off the 2007 Connecticut Family Business of the Year Awards Celebration held on November 14th.

Doris Christopher, Founder and Chairman of The Pampered Chef®, presented the keynote address for the awards ceremony. Inspired by her dedication to preserving the tradition of family mealtimes - and driven by the entrepreneurial spirit - Doris Christopher, with the support of her husband, founded The Pampered Chef® from the basement of their suburban Chicago home in 1980 with a \$3,000 initial investment. More than twenty years later, The Pampered Chef® has blossomed into a \$700 million enterprise (at the time of the Berkshire Hathaway acquisition) and has over 70,000 consultants worldwide. The Pampered Chef® provides solutions for those who want a healthy balance between career and family - boasting a legacy of empowering women and fostering entrepreneurship.

Joint UConn Family Business Program & CBIA "Family Business Survey" released

Results of the Joint University of Connecticut Family Business Program & CBIA Survey on Family Firms were also released with a special announcement at the awards ceremony. The 2007 Family Business Survey is an important assessment in understanding the economic and strategic status of Connecticut's family firms. "Connecticut's family businesses remain resilient in the face of numerous challenges and impediments," notes Richard N. Dino, PhD, Executive Director of the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the UConn School of Business. "But they are addressing issues of concern to their organizations and planning for the future. In an increasingly complex global economy, they are demonstrating the will and ability to survive and remain competitive for generations to come." Results can be found on CBIA's website at <http://www.cbia.com/newsroom>

About the University of Connecticut Family Business Program

Drawing from the academic backbone of the nationally ranked University of Connecticut's School of Business and the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CCEI), the mission of the UConn Family Business Program is to enhance the success of businesses, families and individuals by providing unparalleled resources and opportunities for collaboration. Our goal is to help family businesses develop strategies and policies that will serve to perpetuate family ownership while helping them make significant advances in functions related to business strategy, increased complexity, organizational structure, management practices and succession planning.

For more information on the Connecticut Family Business of the Year Awards, please contact Priscilla Cale, UConn Family Business Program Director, at (860) 486-5628, e-mail pcale@business.uconn.edu or visit the UConn Family Business Program's website at www.business.uconn.edu/familybusiness.