



Ernst & Young  
Entrepreneur Of The Year®  
*25 years of inspiration*

# call for 2011 leaders for nominations

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# Celebrating **25 years** of honoring the business innovators who make the world a better place.

## **Twenty-five years of inspiration**

The role of the entrepreneur has never been more vital than it is today. Economies around the world are fueled by the vision and innovation of entrepreneurial businesses. The 25th anniversary of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Program is a fitting time to celebrate the achievements of the best and brightest men and women in business.

When the Entrepreneur Of The Year Program was first held in 1986, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, our goal was to bring together the most successful entrepreneurs and join with their communities in applauding their achievements.

Today, that's still our goal.

Our vision, a celebration of the most influential and innovative community of entrepreneurs, now spans more than 140 cities and 50 countries worldwide, and the US Program has grown from one awards program to 26 regional programs.

Our belief – that a community of entrepreneurs is a powerful force that can transform economies, address large, complex problems, drive innovation and improve our communities – has been proven true year after year.

As we embark on the silver anniversary of this celebration of innovation, we do so in the company of over 8,000 previous entrepreneur winners. And we invite the entrepreneurs of tomorrow to join us to celebrate your creativity, drive and best ideas.

## **About the Entrepreneur Of The Year Program**

For more than two decades, we have recognized more than 8,000 entrepreneurial leaders in business through the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards. National Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year winners and finalists are announced at our annual black-tie awards gala every year in Palm Springs.

The awards are the culminating event of the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum®, a gathering of America's business leaders that provides invaluable opportunities to gain strategic business insights and contacts. Forbes.com named the Forum one of its seven "Get-Ahead Executive Retreats."

Ernst & Young's Strategic Growth Markets practice is committed to serving entrepreneurial companies throughout their life cycle. The practice is a leader in serving both high-growth public and private companies. It plays a leading role in serving businesses with significant venture capital or private equity investment.

Entrepreneurial leaders and visionaries not only create and build market-leading businesses, they also help take business excellence to new heights, change the face of industries, create jobs and contribute to the vibrancy of communities.

You can be part of the exciting 25th anniversary of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Program. Help us identify the outstanding entrepreneurs of 2011 by nominating them for the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards. You or someone you know could be among those honored.

## Who is eligible?

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year awards recognize the men and women who put everything on the line in order to translate an idea into a viable, sustainable enterprise. Entrepreneurs include both founders of companies and also those who organize, manage and assume the risks of a business or enterprise early in its life cycle or during its growth and are still active in the company. Entrepreneurs who are a generation or more removed from the founder, such as in family-owned businesses, are eligible if the individual manages the business and assumes the associated risks.

Successful entrepreneurs, whether company founders or current leaders, take businesses to the next level. They find creative ways to acquire the capital and resources they need to achieve their goals and build and grow a business.

If this describes you or someone you know, the next step is easy. Respond to the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year call for nominations. Self-nominations are encouraged.

## How you can nominate

An Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year nominee must be an owner or manager of a private or public company with primary responsibility for the recent performance of the company and an active member of top management. The nominee's company must be at least three years old. To obtain an application form, you can do one of the following:

- ▶ Call +1 800 755 2927
- ▶ Visit our website at [www.ey.com/us/eoy](http://www.ey.com/us/eoy) for downloadable forms or electronic submissions
- ▶ Complete and return the attached Business Reply Card

## How winners are chosen

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year nominees are evaluated by independent panels of judges for each program. The judges are past winners, and business and community leaders. They know what it takes to be an outstanding entrepreneur and what measures really matter when it comes to selecting award recipients in each of several designated categories.

The business an entrepreneur creates, how successful it has been, its everyday practices with respect to employees and its impact on the community are among the factors that provide the metrics for selecting Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year winners. The following are also essential criteria:

- ▶ **Vision** – the ability to create a business concept and implement it effectively.
- ▶ **Leadership** – the focus and strength of character that enable the entrepreneur to move forward – and inspire a team to do the same – despite skeptics and obstacles.
- ▶ **Achievement** – driving business success by going beyond developing an idea and continually innovating in order to generate new ideas.
- ▶ **Social responsibility** – knowing that commitment and responsibility aren't confined to business, and leveraging energies and resources to give back to the community.

Regional award winners are eligible to participate in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year national awards, with recognition at a gala ceremony in Palm Springs, California, on November 12, 2011. Then, national winners from more than 50 countries compete in the World Entrepreneur Of The Year awards in Monte Carlo the following June.

**About Ernst & Young**

Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Worldwide, our 141,000 people are united by our shared values and an unwavering commitment to quality. We make a difference by helping our people, our clients and our wider communities achieve their potential.

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**About Entrepreneur Of The Year®**

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award 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 award of its kind, Ernst & Young 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 140 cities in 50 countries.

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# Regional programs


- Alabama/Georgia/Tennessee** ..... Maria Lalos | [maria.lalos@ey.com](mailto:maria.lalos@ey.com)
- Central Texas** ..... Teri Steffek | [teri.steffek@ey.com](mailto:teri.steffek@ey.com)  
(Austin and San Antonio)
- Carolinas** ..... Amanda Dudley | [amanda.dudley@ey.com](mailto:amanda.dudley@ey.com)
- Central Midwest** ..... Wendy Fox | [wendy.fox@ey.com](mailto:wendy.fox@ey.com)  
(Iowa, Greater Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
- Florida** ..... Beverly Eha | [beverly.aha@ey.com](mailto:beverly.aha@ey.com)
- Greater Los Angeles** . . . . Sandra Feldner Vandergriff | [sandra.feldnervandergriff@ey.com](mailto:sandra.feldnervandergriff@ey.com)
- Greater Philadelphia** . . . . . Carolyn Maher | [carolyn.maher@ey.com](mailto:carolyn.maher@ey.com)
- Greater Washington** . . . . . Erika Chambers | [erika.chambers@ey.com](mailto:erika.chambers@ey.com)
- Houston and Gulf Coast** . . . . . Genevieve Salazar | [genevieve.salazar@ey.com](mailto:genevieve.salazar@ey.com)
- Maryland** . . . . . Erika Chambers | [erika.chambers@ey.com](mailto:erika.chambers@ey.com)
- Michigan and Northwest Ohio** . . . . . Julie Wasco | [julie.wasco@ey.com](mailto:julie.wasco@ey.com)
- Midwest** . . . . . Wendy Fox | [wendy.fox@ey.com](mailto:wendy.fox@ey.com)  
(Illinois and Indiana)
- Mountain Desert** . . . . . Courtney Story | [courtney.story@ey.com](mailto:courtney.story@ey.com)
- New England** . . . . . Kara Saliba | [kara.saliba@ey.com](mailto:kara.saliba@ey.com)
- New Jersey** . . . . . Michelle Liotta | [michelle.liotta@ey.com](mailto:michelle.liotta@ey.com)
- New York** . . . . . Michelle Liotta | [michelle.liotta@ey.com](mailto:michelle.liotta@ey.com)
- Northeast Ohio** . . . . . Susan Snyder | [susan.snyder2@ey.com](mailto:susan.snyder2@ey.com)
- Northern California** . . . . . Jessica Latham | [jessica.latham@ey.com](mailto:jessica.latham@ey.com)
- Orange County/Desert Cities** . . . . . Kathy Beckman | [kathy.beckman@ey.com](mailto:kathy.beckman@ey.com)
- Pacific Northwest** . . . . . Rachel Anderson | [rachel.anderson@ey.com](mailto:rachel.anderson@ey.com)
- San Diego** . . . . . Irene Veca | [irene.veca@ey.com](mailto:irene.veca@ey.com)
- South Central Ohio and Kentucky** . . . . . Jen Frost | [jen.frost@ey.com](mailto:jen.frost@ey.com)
- Southwest Area North** . . . . . Darlene Pearson-Lowe | [darlene.pearsonlowe@ey.com](mailto:darlene.pearsonlowe@ey.com)  
(North Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas-Wichita)
- Upper Midwest** . . . . . Wendy Fox | [wendy.fox@ey.com](mailto:wendy.fox@ey.com)  
(Minnesota, Wisconsin, Dakotas)
- Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia** . . . . . Susan Snyder | [susan.snyder2@ey.com](mailto:susan.snyder2@ey.com)
- Utah** . . . . . Chalyce Valgardson | [chalyce.valgardson@ey.com](mailto:chalyce.valgardson@ey.com)

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Minneapolis, MN 55402

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# 2011



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**Your information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to nominate:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

An application form will be sent to the nominee for completion. The application form needs to be completed and signed by the nominee no later than March 18, 2011.

Mail card or fax to: +1 866 338 4803  
or email to: [wendy.fox@ey.com](mailto:wendy.fox@ey.com)