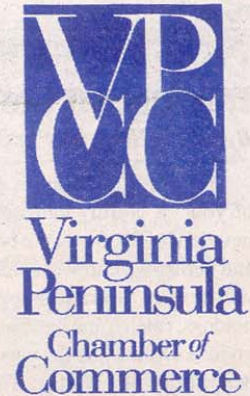


Enterprise

Serving the Business Communities of Hampton Roads

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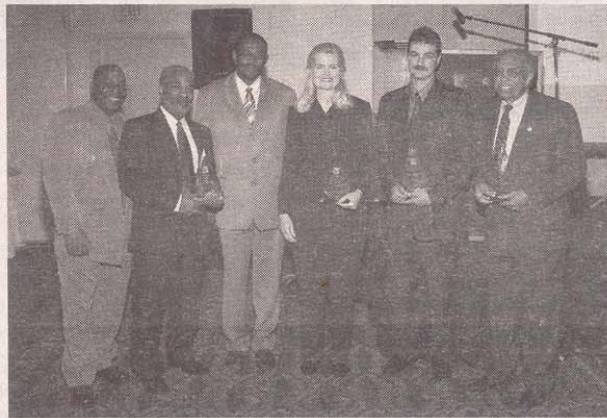


Celebrating Small Businesses on the Peninsula

by Amy Malone

The Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce 2005 Small Business Awards Dinner was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 at the Omni Newport News Hotel. Over 150 business persons, family, and friends attended the event to recognize excellence in our business community. Prior to the awards dinner, thirteen nominees were given the opportunity to showcase their individual businesses and accomplishments by setting up display booths around the ballroom.

Modeled after the Small Business Administration's Small Business Awards program, the VPCC looks to recognize outstanding owners, entrepreneurs, and advocates of small businesses on the Virginia Peninsula. Small businesses represent the driving force behind our local community. The award



Small Business Awards Recipients (l-r): Wesley Jones, Larry Crewe, and Robert Taborn of Crewstone Technologies, Inc.; Nicole Stuart of Top Guard, Inc.; Bryan Nikel for John Campbell of Quality Advantage Home Products, Inc.; and Turner Spencer of Hampton City Council.

winner exceeded the expectations of most and were nominated in their respective areas and specialties by different businesses and organizations.

Awards categories included Minority Small Business Advocate for an individual who has fulfilled a commitment to support minority entrepreneurship,

Women In Business Advocate for an individual committed to the advancement of women's business ownership, Entrepreneurial Success Award for an individual who owns or operates a business with evidence of growth and success over the past three years, and Small Business Person of the Year for an individual who owns or operates a small business with evidence of staying power, growth in numbers, and contributions to the community.

Nominees were carefully reviewed by the Business Services Advisory Committee, which is made up of business persons from throughout the community. Each nominee was rated by the criteria for the particular award nomination.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 4
Chamber Closed for Independence Day

Thursday, July 14
*Business-After-Hours
Clarion Hotel, Hampton*

Monday, July 18
*Lunch with Leaders
Point Plaza Suites &
Conference Hotel*

Sunday, July 31
*SeaFest Early Bird
Registration Period Expires*

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The event's keynote speaker was Dr. Edward Carr, Executive Director of New Horizons Regional Education Center. Dr. Carr was presented with a special award from Joe Witt, VPCC Chairman of the Board and Clyde Hoey, VPCC CEO, recognizing his contributions to education and 38 years of service with Virginia's Public Schools.

The winner of the Minority Small Business Advocate was Turner Spencer of the Hampton City Council. Mr. Spencer has been a public figure for many years, holding several roles in government as well as other public and charitable organizations. He championed the creation of the Procurement and Purchasing Oversight Committee and initiated the Minority Disparity Study, which addressed fair procurement practices, and contract awards to minority and women-owned, and small businesses.

The Women in Business Advocate was awarded to Nicole Stuart of Top Guard,



Dr. Carr delivers his thoughts on the future of workforce development at the 2005 Small Business Awards Dinner.

Inc. Ms. Stuart is a member of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Women Business Owners. Her security business was ranked number 2

on Inside Business' Largest Women-Owned Business List and Top 25 Women's Achievement Award.

The Entrepreneurial Success Award went to Mr. John Campbell of Quality Advantage Home Products, Inc. Accepting for Mr. Campbell was Bryan Nickel, Production Supervisor for the organization. Quality Advantage has seen substantial growth in business and attributed part of its success to product innovativeness and creative promotional strategies.

The final award of the evening was presented to the Small Business Person of the Year. This year's recipient was Larry Crewe of Crewestone Technologies, Inc. Representing a partnership between him, Robert Taborn and Wesley Jones, Crewestone Technologies, Inc. has been in the visual media and audio support services business for over 5 ½ years, displayed strong financial growth, and received national and international

recognition. NASA selected Crewestone Technologies, Inc. as the Agency's 2004 Minority Subcontractor of the Year. This management team has shown community spirit by involvement with Hampton Holly Days, Virginia Symphony, Langley Research Center, Peninsula Pregnancy Crisis Center, and many other charitable organizations.

The Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Business Services Advisory Committee would like to thank this year's sponsors for their generous support. Friends of Entrepreneurship included Thomas Nelson Workforce Development, Patten, Wornom, Hatten & Diamonstein, and Bank of America. Entrepreneurship Contributors included TowneBank, Zel Technologies, LLC, and Florida Institute of Technology. Additional thanks are given to Wythe Florist, KIS Computers, J&M Entertainment, and Jeremy Mackey. Photographs are courtesy of Roger Berg Photography.