



HOUSTON CITIZENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Access - Advocacy - Awareness

15th Annual African-American Business Achievement Pinnacle Awards
Friday, October 16, 2009

“Celebrating a Legacy of Impact: Back in the Black”

Houston – The Houston Citizens Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 15th Annual African American Achievement Awards with a ballroom filled with members, supporters, corporate citizens and local, state and national leaders. After a stirring keynote address by National Urban League President and CEO, Marc H. Morial, the 2009 Award winners were announced.

2009 Winners

Advocate Award:

The Advocate Award was created to honor an organization that has been a true champion for African-American small businesses in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area. These organizations are diligently working to ensure the stability and growth of small businesses through its diversity supplier programs, community outreach and education. The finalists for this year’s Advocate Award are: Gilbane, Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro), and Parsons.

Advocate Award Winner

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County

METRO is an innovative regional transportation organization of dedicated employees committed to partnering with the public and private sectors to provide the safest, highest quality services and mobility solutions that exceed our customers’ expectations while creating economic growth. In 1978, Houston-area voters created METRO and approved a one-cent sales tax to support its operations. METRO opened for business in January 1979. The Authority has transformed a broken bus fleet into a regional multimodal transportation system. Currently METRO has more than 3,550 employees.

Mack Hannah, Jr. Upstart Award:

This category is named in honor of humanitarian, community and land developer, banker, financier, and diplomat, Mack Hannah, Jr. The criteria states that these businesses must be: 51 percent African American owned, a for-profit business in operation for no more than two years, and located in the Greater Houston Area or surrounding cities.

The Mack H. Hannah, Jr. Upstart Business Award recognizes a business on the path to entrepreneurial greatness. The four finalists this year represent a diversity of companies and industries. They are all innovators and are already successful in their own right. The finalists were: Marylyn Harris of Harrland Healthcare Consulting, LLC; Jonathan Smith of Pride Staff; K Jerrold Enterprises, Inc; and Epiphany Celebrations and Entertaining.

Mack Hannah, Jr. Upstart Award Winner



Marylyn Harris

Harrland Healthcare Consulting, LLC is a minority, woman, veteran-owned consulting firm specializing in quality Medical and Psychiatric Clinical, Administrative and Training Services. In September 2009, Harrland Healthcare launched a new product, The **Veterans Inforsource Project**. **The VIP Project** is an online coaching and counseling resource for veterans and their families who are pursuing higher education at the nation's colleges and universities. With multiple deployments, high divorce rates, substance abuse, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and suicide rates, Harrland Healthcare created The VIP Project, and its Vendor Network to aid military families that are in crisis and need extra support, especially in stressful academic settings. Harrland Healthcare plans for **The VIP Project** to be the **national model** that colleges and universities utilize to assist veterans to be successful **both** academically and personally.

Pinnacle Awards:

Pinnacle Award nominees must also be 51 percent African American owned, a for profit business for a minimum of three years, and located in the Greater Houston Area or surrounding cities. Of the following 10 finalists, four winners will be named 2009 Pinnacle Award winners:

Ted Ellis of T. Ellis, Inc.; Karen Hill of Internal Medicine and Pediatric Associates; Ka-Ron Wade of Ka-Ron Wade, DDS; Ricky and Lora Mayes of Beacon Home Healthcare; Patrick Johnson of PCJ Consulting, Inc.' Joi Beasley of GoGo Business Communications; Jennifer Dean of Dean's Professional Services and Smith and Dean, Inc.; Deiedria Joseph of Topp Knotch Personnel Services, Inc.; Tabatha Bellard of CBFS, and Jonathan Sprinkles of Sprinklins, Inc.

Pinnacle Awards Winners



Dr. Ka-Ron Wade
Ka-Ron Wade, DDS

At the practice of Dr. Ka-Ron Y. Wade D.D.S our goal has always been to deliver the highest quality of care to our patients in a friendly environment. One thing that has separated us from other dentists is our emphasis on educating our patients about their treatment options and oral health issues. We have proudly provided quality dental care since 1999. The entire staff shares Dr. Wade's philosophy and commitment to provide our patients with excellence in dentistry with the highest level of service. We specialize in cosmetic dental procedures and use the most up-to-date technology and techniques to ensure that each patient receives individualized quality results. We build long-lasting dental relationships one smile at a time. We stand by our motto: we are truly **“Changing the World One Smile At A Time”**



Jonathan Sprinkles
Sprinklisms, Inc.

Jonathan Sprinkles was voted National Speaker of the Year, *Rolling Out Magazine's* 40 Under 40 and Eastman Kodak Mentor of the Year because he's funny; his energy keeps audiences on the edge of their seats; and he never pulls any punches. Jonathan “sprinkles” elements of **wisdom** and **humor** to create a light-hearted, yet purpose-filled learning environment. He provides the “wow” that audience members want and the substance that meeting planners value. Jonathan will show your people how to accept responsibility for their role in the organization's vision, approach each assignment expecting excellence and success, and add value to their organization, which in turn increases their self-confidence and gives them greater satisfaction with their lives. Jonathan is refreshingly different. His techniques are simple, down-to-earth, and designed to turn **everyday people** into **extraordinary performers**.



Deidria Joseph
Topp Knotch Personnel Services, Inc.

In 1995, Diedria B. Joseph established Topp Knotch Personnel, Inc. as a premier, high-caliber contract and direct hire staffing agency. As a woman and minority small business owner, Joseph has led Topp Knotch Personnel as the President/CEO with offices in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. Over the last 14 years, TKP has acquired various governmental and commercial contracts with a cumulative \$50M in revenues. With several thousand employees and placements throughout the country, Topp Knotch Personnel has excelled as a global staffing resource that is “small enough to care, large enough to deliver.” Joseph extended her company offerings; not only specializing in contract and direct hire, but also drug and background check services, on-site management, vendor management, purchasing & procurement, and payroll services, shattering the mold of a basic “temporary agency” by becoming a one-stop source for every Human Resource need.



Ted Ellis
T. Ellis Art, Inc.

Ted Ellis is passionate about his family, passionate about his heritage, and passionate about his art. He was born and educated in New Orleans, a city known for its history, style, and artistic exuberance. This backdrop inspired Ellis to capture the essence of the subjects of his childhood in the glory of their rich cultural heritage. Recognized as one of the most celebrated artists of the 21st century, T. Ellis Art, Inc. has sold over a million prints and posters nationwide. Extremely dedicated to his craft, the self-taught artist boldly blends realism and impressionism in his work, evoking nostalgia and inspiration. The art of this man both reveres and celebrates the traditional values of his culture. Ted Ellis, the man, lives the life he paints about by educating through his art and contributing time and artwork to many worthy causes.