



## EY Announces Winners for the Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2017 Upper Midwest Awards

June 9, 2017

*EY builds on three decades of honoring exceptional entrepreneurs in the Upper Midwest*

**Minneapolis, June 9** – EY is pleased to announce the winners of the Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award in the Upper Midwest. These leading entrepreneurs were selected by an independent judging panel made up of previous award winners, leading CEOs, investors and other regional business leaders. The winners were unveiled at a black-tie gala on June 8 in Minneapolis.

"EY has been recognizing leading entrepreneurs for over three decades," said Joe McCarney, Entrepreneur Of The Year Program Director for the Upper Midwest. "The class of winners in 2017 represent new ways of thinking, disruptive business models and overall dynamism that make this country a great place to do business."

The winners for the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017 Upper Midwest Award include:

- Tony Jacobson, AllOver Media
- Joel Conner, Bellisio Foods, Inc.
- Ben Gray, Jeff Gray and Scott Gray, Creative Apparel Concepts, Inc.
- Jennifer Smith, Innovative Office Solutions LLC
- Zachary Quinn, Love Your Melon
- Kari Rihm, Rihm Family Companies
- Chris Homeister, The Tile Shop
- Gwen Stanley and Michael Zenk, Venture Bank

Since its founding in 1986, the program has expanded to recognize business leaders in over 145 cities in more than 60 countries throughout the world.

Regional award winners are now eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year National program.

Award winners in several national categories, as well as the Entrepreneur Of The Year Overall National Award winner, will be announced at the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala in Palm Springs, California

on November 18, 2017. The awards are the culminating event of the EY Strategic Growth Forum™, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies. The Entrepreneur Of The Year Overall Award winner then moves on to compete for the World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award in Monaco in June 2018.

### Sponsors

Founded and produced by EY, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are nationally sponsored in the U.S. by SAP America, Merrill Corporation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

In the Upper Midwest, region sponsors include Padilla, Twin Cities Business, Schulze School of Entrepreneurship, Salo, Lockton, Pohlad Companies and ThreeBridge Solutions.

### About Entrepreneur Of The Year®

Entrepreneur Of The Year®, founded by EY, is the world's most prestigious business awards program for entrepreneurs, chosen from an independent panel of judges including entrepreneurs and prominent leaders from business, finance and the local community. The program 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 awards program of its kind, 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 over 145 cities in more than 60 countries. Learn more at [ey.com/eoy](http://ey.com/eoy).

#### **About EY's Growth Markets Network**

EY's worldwide Growth Markets Network is dedicated to serving the changing needs of high-growth companies. For more than 30 years, we've helped many of the world's most dynamic and ambitious companies grow into market leaders. Whether working with international mid-cap companies or early stage, venture-backed businesses, our professionals draw upon their extensive experience, insight and global resources to help your business succeed. For more information, please visit us at [ey.com/sgm](http://ey.com/sgm) or follow news on Twitter @EY\_Growth.

#### **About EY**

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities. EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](http://ey.com).

This news release has been issued by Ernst & Young LLP, a member of the global EY organization that provides services to clients in the U.S.

For more information, please visit [ey.com](http://ey.com)