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## Small Businesses Honored

By: Jenny DeHuff , The Bulletin



Philadelphia - Small businesses were given a moment in the limelight Thursday night at the 25th annual Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Excellence Awards honoring the region's small businesses.

More than 400 people gathered at the Hyatt on Penn's Landing for the presentation of awards to 11 businesses, chosen for their entrepreneurial spirit, diversity and perseverance to their trade, with an award for excellence.

Hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the winners were said to embody the promise of the region and their successful enterprises continued support in making Philadelphia an attractive place to work.

Award recipients were Michael George, president and CEO of QVC, John A. Donahue Jr. and John A. Donahue III, owners of Sterling Limousine & Transportation Services, Larry Borden, CEO of The Borden Agency, Terry Steen, president of Steen Outdoor Advertising, Lawrence A. James and Christopher Holland, owners of Connexus Technology, Steve Grandizio, president of

Steve Grandizio Friendly Mortgage, Tim Patterson, vice president of Pressure Products Industries, Inc., Clayton Lane and Tanya Seaman, executive directors of PhillyCarShare, John Retaino, president of Capogiro Gelato Artisans, LLC, Drew Devlin and Nick Hackett, president and founder of New Way Air Bearings and Gustavo Perea, president and COO of Gustavo Perea, Adams Bickel Associates, Inc.

"The [businesses] are selected from the metropolitan area that have contributed to the small business community," Michael Pearson, chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors said.

"It's not only their size, but how they run their business with good practices and social longevity. We look at what they've given back to the community."

Approximately 85 percent of the chamber's 5,000 member companies are small businesses. These companies are defined as having less than 100 employees with half of them employing six or fewer people.

The company awards were presented in eight categories - customer service, emerging business, family business, innovation business, manufacturer, non-profit, retailer and technology.

"Seventy-five years later, we are still a pop and son agency," Mr. Steen said.

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