

Annual Chamber Awards – Open for Nominations

Small Business of the Year

Company must have fewer than 150 employees, been in business for at least two years (*less than two – see New Business award criteria*), and have a physical presence in eastern CT. The following should be considered in your nomination:

- Community involvement
- Preservation of skills and/or product in Connecticut
- Innovative, green, or other unique or progressive business practices

Business of the Year

Company must have more than 150 employees, been in business for at least two years (*less than two – see New Business award criteria*), and have a physical presence in eastern CT. The following should be considered in your nomination:

- Number of people employed in Connecticut, and potential for employment
- Community involvement
- Preservation of skills and/or product in Connecticut
- Annual growth %
- Innovative, green, or other unique or progressive business practices

Community Revitalization Leader

This award recognizes a business/project that has made a tangible difference in the local community through specific efforts. The following should be considered in your nomination:

- Expense and size of project, including risk of private funds
- Employment generated, or potential
- Preservation of existing infrastructure and impact on environment
- Positive impact on the surrounding community

New Business Award

Company must be independently-owned, established within the last two years, and can be any size business with a physical presence in eastern CT. This does not refer to new ownership/management of an existing business. The following should be considered in your nomination:

- Knowledgeable of product, and/or bringing new product or service to the region
- Employment generated, or potential
- Dedication to customer service and community involvement

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Nonprofit of the Year

A 501c3 or c6 organization that provides a valued service that enhances the local quality-of-life, with a physical presence in eastern CT. The following should be considered in your nomination:

- Initiatives that make eastern CT a better place to live
- Programs unique to your organization
- Opportunities for growth and development of staff or volunteers

Best Place to Work

A workplace that demonstrates an exceedingly positive corporate culture for its employees, including but not limited to:

- Healthy work-life balance for employees
- Employing green/innovative practices
- Atmosphere of diversity and inclusion
- Opportunities for employee growth, training, or development
- Community involvement as a team, and/or supporting opportunities for individual staff to engage with non-profits

Industry Innovator

Presented to a local business (of any age/size) that is:

- Adapting to the marketplace by introducing or embracing new concepts or technologies to better serve customers and the community
- Provides new, unique opportunities for its workforce development

Tourism Leader of the Year

A business that has demonstrated excellence in the region's tourism industry through:

- Commitment to superior customer service and staff knowledge/training
- Annual growth %
- Efforts to expand and diversify products or services
- Tourism advocacy and community involvement

Young Professional of the Year

A career-minded young adult, age 18-40, who has demonstrated:

- Dedication to career success through advancement, entrepreneurialism, mentorship, or implementation of new programs/practices
- Commitment to the eastern Connecticut community service through volunteerism, board/committee engagement, or social advocacy
- Participation with the Young Professionals of Eastern CT is preferred but not required