



## **News Release**

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### **EY Announces Finalists for the Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2017 Award in the Midwest**

**Chicago - April 20, 2017** – EY today announced the finalists for the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017 Award in the Midwest. The awards program recognizes entrepreneurs who are excelling in areas such as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. These business leaders were selected by a panel of independent judges. Award winners will be announced at a special gala on June 21 in Chicago.

“EY is proud to honor the Finalists in the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017 program,” said Rye Butman, EY’s Midwest Program Director. “Their drive and determination propels economic growth in the Midwest and that deserves to be celebrated.”

The Midwest program includes companies based in Illinois and Wisconsin. Collectively, this year’s finalists generated nearly \$8.1 billion in revenue and they employed 18,000 people by the end of 2016.

The finalists are:

- Rich Diaz, Advanced Resources (Chicago, Illinois)
- Rattan Khosa, AMSYSCO, Inc. (Romeoville, Illinois)
- Ashish Rangnekar, BenchPrep (Chicago, Illinois)
- Alexander Samoylovich, CEDARst Companies LLC (Chicago, Illinois)
- Jordan Batt and Paul Chernawsky, Endurance (Northbrook, Illinois)
- Tarek Hammoud, Enfusion Systems (Chicago, Illinois)
- Talia Mashiach, Eved (Chicago, Illinois)
- Adam Robinson, Hireology (Chicago, Illinois)
- Patrick Vihtelic, Home Chef (Chicago, Illinois)

- Ilene Gordon, Ingredion Incorporated (Westchester, Illinois)
- Loretta Rosenmayer, INTREN L.L.C. (Union, Illinois)
- Amanda Lannert and Harry Gottlieb, Jellyvision (Chicago, Illinois)
- Alison Gutterman, Jelmar, LLC (Skokie, Illinois)
- Neil Book, JSSI (Chicago, Illinois)
- Christofer Ruder, Kankakee Spikeball Inc. (Chicago, Illinois)
- Michael Butler, Life Spine, Inc. (Huntley, Illinois)
- Rich Lyons, Lyons Consulting Group (Chicago, IL)
- Andrew Limouris, Medix (Chicago, Illinois)
- Donald Crampton, MedSpeed (Elmhurst, Illinois)
- Joseph Hanni, PS Seasoning (Iron Ridge, Wisconsin)
- Gregory Caplan, Remote Year (Highland Park, Illinois)
- Aleksandra Efimova, Russian Pointe (Chicago, Illinois)
- Fred Sasser, Sasser Family Holdings, Inc. (Schaumburg, Illinois)
- Eddie Lou, Shiftgig (Chicago, Illinois)
- Janice Honigberg, Sun Belle Inc. (Schiller Park, Illinois)
- Chris-Tia Donaldson, Thank God It's Natural (Chicago, Illinois)
- Stephen Calk, The Federal Savings Bank (Chicago, Illinois)
- Matt Neumann and Tim O'Brien, Tim O'Brien Homes, Inc. (Pewaukee, Wisconsin)
- Christopher Gersch, Verde Solutions (Chicago, Illinois)

Now in its 31st year, the program has expanded to recognize business leaders in over 145 cities and more than 60 countries throughout the world.

Regional award winners are 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 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 US by SAP America, Merrill Corporation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Local sponsors for the Midwest program include Plexus Groupe, LaSalle Network, PNC, Becker Professional Education, Cresa, DLA Piper, Milwaukee Business Journal and 1871.

**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 and more than 60 countries. [ey.com/eoy](http://ey.com/eoy).

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