

# FUSE BUSINESS INNOVATION AWARDS

## celebrates the accomplishments of local, small businesses

*Annual event recognizes individuals and businesses who are the epitome of entrepreneurship and community service*

This past Thursday was small business day in our community. The Small Business Development Center honored seven local small businesses and individuals. For the past four years, the SBDC has recognized the determination and hard work of these entrepreneurs as "brands to watch" from our own backyard.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Donald Kuratko who is with the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Kelley School of Business. Dr. K, as he is affectionately known to some, provided an energetic and enthusiastic presentation to the audience of

community and business leaders, elected officials, and award nominees.

*Dr Kuratko stated during the celebration: "Immediately after 9/11, Wall Street closed but Main Street stayed open for business. Entrepreneurs and small businesses are the real engines of the economy and it's they who will turn around the current economic climate."*

The Fuse Business Innovation Awards are co-sponsored by the Small Business Development Center and inVenture, Bloomington's technology business incubator.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

**Bill & Gayle Cook Entrepreneur of the Year: Cullen McCarty of Smithville Digital, LLC** — This award is given to an individual who represents the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur including creativity, initiative, and vision.

**Community Service Award: Bloom Magazine** — This award is given to a company whose volunteer and pro bono work has enriched our community.

**Entrepreneurial Growth Award: Bloom Magazine** — This award is given to a business that has demonstrated 30% or greater revenue growth during the past two years combined, is at least 2 years old and has fewer than 50 employees.

**Innovative Business of the Year: Vascular Access Specialists, LLC** — This award is given to a company that has changed an industry or consumers' lives, is at least 2 years old and has fewer than 50 employees.

**Microenterprise of the Year: 39 Degrees North, LLC** — This award is given to an individual who represents the characteristics of an entrepreneur, including creativity, initiative and vision; exhibits stable growth and enterprise; has fewer than 5 employees, is at least 3 years old and was started with less than \$35,000.

**Small Business Advocate of the Year: Coffman Proactive CPA Services, LLC** — This award is given to an organization that supports small business and works to improve conditions for entrepreneurs.

**Social Entrepreneur of the Year: BCT Management, Inc./ Buskirk-Chumley Theater** — This award is given to a non-profit organization that exhibits innovative thinking, sound management and significant impact to the community.

**fuse**  
**BUSINESS**  
**INNOVATION**