

Economic program announces annual award winners

E-R Staff

Thursday saw the Chico Economic Planning Corp. honor a number of local businesses and individuals during its annual dinner held at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

While many were recognized earlier in the month, CEPCO saved a handful of business awards to be released that night.

They included:

- Excellence in Technology and Innovation went to Auctiva, a Chico company that provides online auction software for eBay sellers;

- Excellence in Real Estate Development went to The Group Real Estate Brokers;

- Excellence in Communication and Media went to Deer Creek Broadcasting, which operates radio stations such as KPAY and KHSL.

- Excellence in Arts and Entertainment went to Chico State University's Public Events, which provides performances and entertainment on campus.

- Excellence in Agri-Business was presented to Mooney Farms, a local company that specializes in sun-dried tomatoes;

- Excellence in Web and Graphic Design was received by Chico Web Design;

- Excellence in Health Care was given to Enloe Medical Center's FlightCare helicopter ambulance service.



Jason Halley/Enterprise-Record

Robert Strazzarino of Class Scheduler, LLC (left) accepts the award for Business to Watch from presenter Chris Friedland during the Chico Economic Planning Corp.'s 22nd annual dinner and awards Thursday night at Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

Awards announced earlier, but given during the evening program included:

- Excellence in Community Service to Marilyn Warrens, known for her community projects, university contributions, and support of local medical organizations;

- Lifetime Achievement Award to Lou Checchi, who has served many years as a trustee for Butte College;

- Excellence in Renewable Energy to Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and Ken Grossman for their steps to be carbon neutral and solar supporting;

- 2007 Butte County Job Creation Award to Highway 70 Industrial Park in Oroville and Steve Seidenglanz who turned the empty Louisiana Pacific wood products plant into a manufacturing center, adding jobs to the community;

- 2007 Entrepreneur Award to Chris Friedland, co-founder of fast-growth Improvement Direct Internet business for home improvement;

- 2007 Community Vitality Award to Land Image and owners Brian Firth and Greg Melton for landscape architectural projects throughout the state with an eye to sustainability and energy efficiency.

Additionally, CEPCO announced its "businesses to watch" list that includes five firms in Chico:

- Iris Connection, a company that makes software monitoring programs for small water districts;

- UVaCide, a company exploring the use of light for controlling bacteria;

- Class Scheduler, a company created by a Chico State University student for program-ming schedules;

- New Autos Inc., a company that locates specific vehicles for buyers over the Internet;

- Fifth Sun Graphics, a company that creates graphic designs for use on T-shirts and resort wear.

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