

Announcing the Finalists for the 2007 Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award

We proudly present the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2007 Central Midwest regional program:

Abe Adewale

ABNA Engineering, Inc.

Roger Hargens

Accumold Corporation

Brent Blake and Gary Davis

All About Travel, Inc.

Bryan Beaver

CarterEnergy Corporation

Douglas Albrecht

Centric Group, LLC

Dr. Shri Thanedar

Chemir, Inc.

John Lipinski and

Stanley Riemann

Coffeyville Resources LLC

Gary Kiedalsch

The Coleman Company, Inc.

Don DeWaay

DeWaay Capital Management

David Drelling

GTM Sportswear

Michael Wurst

Henry Wurst Incorporated

Robert Hartnett

Houlihan's Restaurants, Inc.

Martin Rapp

Laird Technologies, Incorporated

Stephen Maritz

Maritz

Sean Kelly and Jeff Klusman

Planet Sub

Michael Roberts and

Steven Roberts

Roberts Hotels Group

Clayton Jones

Rockwell Collins, Inc.

George Rothwell and

Toby Rush

Rush Tracking Systems

Tom Schlafly

The Saint Louis Brewery, Inc.

Jennifer Williams

Saint Louis Closet Company

Keith Jacob

St. Louis Staffing

Kris Robbins

Security Benefit

David LeCompte

Short's Travel Management

Ronald Kruszewski

Stifel Financial Corp.

Gregg Scheller

Synergetics USA, Inc.

Patrick Gavin

Text Link Ads

Henry Herrmann

Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.

James Kavanaugh

World Wide Technology, Inc.

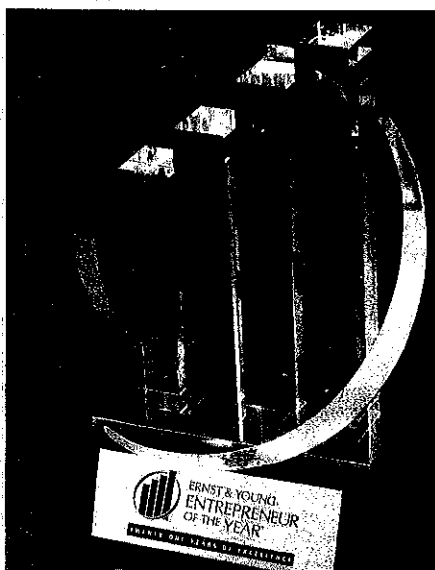
William Zollars

YRC Worldwide, Inc.

Reserve the Night...

and join us in celebrating the best that business has to offer.

The Central Midwest program will be honoring this year's finalists and naming award winners at a lavish networking reception and gala. Rub elbows with past award winners and those making a name in the business community. Contact Cheryl Yates at (816) 480-5321 for ticket information.



**2007 Ernst & Young
Entrepreneur Of The Year
Awards Reception
and Ceremony**

**Thursday, June 28
5:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Crown Center
Kansas City**

ERNST & YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR
OF THE YEAR
TWENTY ONE YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



In **David LeCompte's** career, timing has been everything — a mix of good and bad. In the bad timing category: he joined the travel industry in 1995, one week before airlines started eliminating commissions paid to travel agencies. And the good: David turned Short's Travel Management into one of the country's top 50 travel agencies (number 14 in 2006) by completing a large acquisition one month before September 11 roiled the industry.

Landing in the top 50 opened up several opportunities for Short's Travel, which until then had been a family-owned agency with a half-century of experience. It allowed the firm to bid on national accounts, like the Deere & Company contract it won in 1999 against a field of 24 national competitors. David's tactic also opened doors for Short's Travel to receive more unsolicited requests for proposals.

A move that would drastically change Short's Travel came in 2003, when the firm went up against a 22-year incumbent and several other mega-agencies to bid for a major travel-services contract with the NCAA. Undeterred by the competition, David devised a strategy to develop and build prototypes for a suite of web-based planning and management tools. Short's Travel earned the contract, and it helped the firm develop a niche in sports and logistics travel. David keeps Short's Travel ahead of the competition by prioritizing innovation and technology development, including a web-based system for team rosters and equipment lists, online travel authorization, meeting registration and event management tools, and a paperless invoicing system.

Endowing Short's Travel with the mission "to enhance the experience of getting there, being there, and coming home," David inspires his 140 employees to give their all to the firm. Short's Travel staffers know that when times get tough, their president and CEO as well as other owners and managers will do what it takes to keep the firm on solid ground, such as going without salaries or taking pay cuts like they did after September 11. David also offers employees significant career advancement, promoting many internal candidates into top management positions.



As **Ronald Kruszewski** grew Stifel Financial Corporation from a regional investment banking and brokerage outfit to a national player, he has remained dedicated to the credo of founder Herman Stifel to "safeguard the money of others as if it were your own." Ron stays intently focused on clients, providing investors with personalized service even as Stifel expanded into the 12th largest brokerage in the country.

Since he joined the company as president and CEO in 1997, Ron has reinvigorated a century-old firm with his entrepreneurial spirit and a fresh perspective. He piloted Stifel on growth curve that includes 11 straight years of record net revenues and a nearly six-fold increase in the value of the company's stock. Ron also championed several acquisitions that added new services and expanded Stifel's footprint.

One important merger with Hanifen, Imhoff, Inc., in 2000 added public finance, institutional fixed income sales, and competitive underwriting and trading services. In 2005, Ron orchestrated Stifel's largest acquisition, of Legg Mason Capital Markets from Citigroup, Inc. This doubled the firm's size and significantly added to its capabilities, making Stifel one of the nation's largest domestic equity research franchises outside of Wall Street. This year Stifel acquired Ryan Beck & Company, a regional brokerage in New Jersey. In all of these takeovers Ron has stayed focused on offering personalized service to all clients regardless of their account size or net worth.

Another of Ron's efforts has been to develop his strategy to make Stifel the employer of choice for associates, the advisor of choice for clients, and the investment of choice for shareholders. In Stifel's organizational charts, the client actually sits at the top and is followed directly by the employees who closely serve them. This exemplifies Ron's desire for Stifel to be a different type of investment firm, one that strips away bureaucracy and stays close to clients no matter how big Stifel gets. Employees have shown their belief in Ron and the company, purchasing 60 percent of Stifel's stock.