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PNC Supports Small Business Growth and Success

MICHIGAN - PNC will be the lead (Platinum) sponsor for the 2012 Michigan Celebrates Small Business (MCSB) awards program, the state's premier awards ceremony for entrepreneurs and supporters of small business. PNC is a founding underwriter of MCSB, being engaged with the program since its inception, because they want to be part of the success stories and energy that resonates beyond this event and continues to push Michigan's economy forward.

"We're honored to be a founding underwriter of this prestigious statewide event since its inception eight years ago," commented David Morrison, Executive Vice President Business Banking with PNC. "Michigan Celebrates Small Business is very important to PNC because the program recognizes companies and individuals that have taken the risks necessary to grow our economy. At PNC, we have a group of seasoned bankers that help those risk takers succeed."

As the entrepreneurial spirit continues to flourish throughout Michigan, so does the Michigan Celebrates Small Business event.

"The success of MSCB is a direct result of committed underwriters, like PNC, who have proven their focus to be on lending to and supporting small businesses," stated Carol Lopucki, State Director of the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center. "PNC is a founding underwriter of MCSB and continues to support the program through nominating companies, promoting the program internally and externally and by contributing financially.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 Michigan Celebrates Small Business awards program until November 11th. Individuals may nominate a company or companies may self-nominate at <u>www.michigancelebrates.biz</u>.

The winners will be honored at the 8th annual Michigan Celebrates Small Business event on April 26, 2012 in Lansing. Last year, nearly 900 people attended the state's premier awards program to honor the awardees.

Michigan Celebrates Small Business is a cooperative effort of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration - Michigan, the Edward Lowe Foundation, Small Business Association of Michigan and the Greater Lansing Business Monthly.

Michigan Celebrates Small Business is made possible with the generous support of PNC Bank, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, DTE Energy Foundation, Comcast Business Class, Michigan Certified Development Corporation, Accident Fund and Dynamic Edge, Inc.

Media partners for Michigan Celebrates Small Business are MiBiz, Crain's Detroit Business, Upper Peninsula Business Today, the Traverse City Business News, the Greater Lansing Business Monthly, WWJ News Radio, Michigan Radio and WCMU Radio.

For more information regarding Michigan Celebrates Small Business contact Jennifer Deamud at the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, Managing partner of Michigan Celebrates Small Business – <u>deamudj@gvsu.edu</u> or 616-331-7482.

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