



PEARLS OF WISDOM

The ACG Awards 30th Anniversary Gala

P R E S E N T E D B Y



Thursday, May 29, 2025

5:00 PM – 8:30 PM



Message from the Awards Committee

This year, as we mark a milestone of the Orange County chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG), we reflect on its rich history and the remarkable growth it has brought to our business community. This 30th Annual ACG Orange County Awards Gala underscores the dedication and collaborative efforts of our members, past and present, in fostering innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

Tonight, we celebrate 'Pearls of Wisdom' - the 30th year that the Orange County chapter of ACG has gathered to recognize and honor a select group of companies who have demonstrated outstanding achievements.

The 29 finalists you see honored here tonight represent the best of the best. This year we interviewed over 100 companies for our ten award categories. Together, these leading companies represent 'Pearls of Wisdom' with their culture, their strategy, and their connection and importance to the communities they serve. The success of the companies that we celebrate tonight is also a tribute to the success of ACG's members — many of whom guide, support and advise our nominees.

Our Awards Committee members diligently interviewed numerous companies in each award category. Three finalists were then selected for each award category and presented to our panel of independent judges for a personal interview. These independent judges — all highly successful leaders in the business community and all previous ACG Orange County Award winners or finalists — were solely responsible for the selection of the overall winner in each category. Being a category finalist is recognition of your many accomplishments, and something to proudly share with employees and customers alike. Winners in each award category join a select group of companies that have become visionaries, leaders and major employers in Orange County and the Inland Empire.

Tonight, we honor the finalists in the following Ten Awards categories: Sustained Growth, Established Growth, Reinventing, Green/Sustainability, Global, Innovation, Startup, Corporate Responsibility, Founders and Spotlight.

We'd like to thank the members of the Awards Committee who have volunteered countless hours of personal time to ensure our Awards program is conducted with the utmost integrity. We also salute and thank our esteemed judges who worked to identify the best of the best through thoughtful and incisive interviews and deliberation.

Finally, many thanks to our Event Manager, Shannon Keany of Keany Events; our marketing agency, The Shepherd Group; and ACG Orange County's Executive Director, Richard Meyers. Congratulations to all, and enjoy the show!



Kathy Lawson
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Partner
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Michael S. Lutfi
2025 Awards Co-Chair
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Message from the President

Welcome to the 30th Annual Awards Gala of the Association for Corporate Growth, Orange County and Inland Empire Chapter.

This year's theme, "Pearls of Wisdom," could not be more fitting. As we celebrate our Pearl Anniversary, we also honor the insights, leadership, and resilience embodied by tonight's outstanding finalists and the professional service providers that support them — each representing the very best of our region's business community.

ACG OC & IE is a vibrant network of middle-market dealmakers and growth-minded professionals dedicated to building companies and driving economic advancement. Through this annual event, we shine a spotlight on businesses whose stories reflect innovation, bold decision-making, and exceptional performance across Orange County and the Inland Empire.

Our honorees tonight join an esteemed legacy of past winners who have fueled regional progress by creating jobs, launching transformative products and services, and helping position Southern California as a nationally recognized hub for growth and innovation.

Behind every successful company, however, stands a team of dedicated employees whose talent, commitment, and passion are essential to any growth story. The achievements we recognize tonight would not be possible without the strength and support of those teams. They are the true engine behind every milestone.

We also express deep gratitude to the ACG members and volunteers who made this evening possible. A special thanks also goes to the professional advisors—many of whom are ACG OC & IE members—whose behind-the-scenes expertise has played a vital role in the success of the businesses we honor tonight.

To all of our finalists and your dedicated teams: congratulations. Your accomplishments inspire us and embody the dynamic spirit of the middle market. We are proud to celebrate your success.



Bob Hanger
Managing Partner
Masthead Financial & Capital Advisors
President, ACG Orange County and Inland Empire



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Judges



Ned Algeo

Ned Algeo has over 20 years of executive-level experience supporting multinational corporations such as Sprint, Boeing, Cisco Systems, and The Wonderful Company. Most recently, Ned completed a five-year tenure as Chief Financial Officer of Xperience Restaurant Group (XRG). Under his purview, XRG grew its restaurant count from 52 to 75 restaurants across the US, increasing revenue by over \$100 million. In 2022, Ned was awarded the Orange County Business Journal's "CFO of the Year" award for his stewardship of the company through the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns and the subsequent explosive growth of the business. In February 2024, Ned launched his new venture, Multipli Capital. Multipli Capital is a boutique firm that provides a range of services to restaurant businesses, from management consulting and strategic advisory to syndicated capital for growth or acquisition. Ned holds an Economics degree from UCLA and an MBA from USC's Marshall School of Business.



Darin Anderson

Darin Anderson has served as chairman and CEO of Salas O'Brien since 2006, guiding the company through an era of impressive growth to become one of North America's leading engineering and technical services firms. Darin's enthusiasm and drive are evident in his four passions in life: his family, creating a better world, affordable education, and adventure. Whether he's taking a family trip, competing in an ultramarathon, or sharing career advice with students, he leaves nothing in the tank. This passion carries through to his aspiration for Salas O'Brien to be "the most respected firm in the galaxy" and, ultimately, a model of leadership for other organizations. He has led large engineering and construction organizations for nearly three decades in the capacity of CEO, COO, and CFO. He is a proud alumnus of the University of California-Riverside, past Chair for the California Coast Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization, past Chair of the UC Riverside Foundation Board of Trustees, and was named Ernst Young (EY) Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016.



Charles Antis

A well-respected and widely known roofing expert, entrepreneur, and humanitarian, Charles has become one of the most trusted names in the roofing industry countrywide, as well as an inspirational business leader championing social corporate responsibility. This year, Antis Roofing & Waterproofing is celebrating 35 years of "Keeping Families Safe & Dry." Charles has served on a dozen national and local boards for well-known organizations, including the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), where he co-initiated the national adoption of all 165 Ronald McDonald homes across the country. Locally, he serves on the Ronald McDonald House Orange County Board of Directors; is the Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign, raising over \$15 million of the \$12 million goal to double the size of the house; and Chaired the Rock the Socks campaign. Charles also serves on the board of directors of Boys & Girls Club of Central Coast, California State University Fullerton Center for Leadership, and Orange County Habitat for Humanity (Habitat OC), where he has donated to every roof installation since 2009. Charles Antis is a master story teller and sought-after speaker, panelist, podcast and radio show guest. He has been the recipient of many prestigious national and local awards, including the 2017 US Chamber of Commerce Corporate Citizens Award, 2018 Business of the Year from the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce, 2018 American Red Cross Corporate Hero Award, the 2020 Hispanic Leadership Award from the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 2021 HomeAid Subcontractor of the Year, the 2022 Irvine Chamber Business Philanthropist of the Year, and a Civic 50 Honoree each year since 2017.



Judges



Alan Boudreau

After leaving Ohio for California, Alan began working at his father's plumbing company, quickly being promoted to foreman. Determined to continue advancing, Alan spent hours each day learning to operate their backhoe, eliminating the need for outside contractors. When the business closed its doors 8 years later, Alan purchased the backhoe and started A&B Equipment with his wife, Christie. In 1997, after being awarded their first pipeline project, they founded Boudreau Mechanical and hired their first employee. Boudreau Mechanical was incorporated in 2000 to become Boudreau Pipeline Corporation. They now have over 350 employees and hit their annual revenue goal of \$100 million for the first time in 2022. Alan says "It's been an interesting ride – but it's all thanks to our people and our culture."



Tammy S. Cooper

Tammy is a current senior management leader (CEO/CFO) responsible for the oversight of the corporation, including the strategic planning, finance, and HR functions of Technologent. She has presided over an unprecedented growth period for the corporation, leading it through an expansive 19-year period from a 20-employee, \$25M startup to its current 300-employee, 10-office operation that is approaching the \$1 billion mark and includes an established tier 1 base of multi-billion-dollar clients.



Eric Goodman

As President/CEO of MVS, Inc. (Mountain View Services), a leading healthcare supply and distribution company serving more than 500 care facilities for developmentally disabled adults and children, home care facilities, hospice care companies, non-profit organizations, schools, care centers, and homeless shelters, Eric and MVS's mission is to provide the highest quality products and services available to clients, so they in turn can provide the highest quality service to the residents they serve. Eric acquired Chem-Pak, a janitorial, facility, and office supply company, from his father in 2023, making the 37-year-old family business second-generation owned. Chem-Pak services janitorial contractors, businesses, schools, office buildings, and more. Chem-Pak's mission is to help clients with products for their business. Eric fosters his core belief in building relationships within the community. He has served on the board of directors for several prominent non-profit organizations, including the American Heart Association and Ronald McDonald House Charities. MVS, Inc. was a Points of Light Civic 50 honoree in 2022, 2023, and 2024, being recognized as one of the top 50 most community-minded companies in Orange County. MVS was named the Orange County Business Journal Medium-Sized Family-Owned Business of the Year in 2023 and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Orange County National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Small Business in 2024. Eric was honored as the Greater Irvine Chamber Philanthropist of the Year in 2024. Eric has been married to his wife, Roxanne, for 30 years. They have two children, Vanessa (30) and Grant (25), and one grandchild, Delaney. In addition to his work and family life, Eric holds a passion for photography. His work has appeared in galleries, and all proceeds from his work (website: newportbeachsunsets.com) are donated to charity. Eric is also a classic car enthusiast. He is President of the Vintage Volkswagen Club of America, the largest vintage Volkswagen club in the country.



Judges



Jeff Hall

Founder & CEO, Paragon Construction Consulting & Solidus. Jeff Hall is a seasoned construction executive with nearly 40 years of experience leading high-profile projects across the U.S. and internationally. As Founder & CEO of Paragon Construction Consulting, Jeff has built a reputation for solving some of the industry's toughest challenges — turning around mismanaged, over-budget, and distressed projects into successful, high-performing developments. Under his leadership, Paragon has provided strategic oversight on more than \$8 billion in construction projects, spanning hospitality, mixed-use developments, sports facilities, and complex infrastructure. Jeff's notable projects include The Grand Californian Hotel at Disneyland, UCI Medical Center, and major mixed-use developments like Flushing Town Center and Sacramento's Downtown Commons (DOCO). Before founding Paragon in 2008, Jeff rose through the ranks at Turner Construction, eventually serving as Vice President & Operations Manager in Orange County. His expertise in crisis management, construction oversight, and strategic project intervention has made Paragon a go-to firm for developers seeking predictable outcomes. In addition to his work with Paragon, Jeff launched Solidus, a construction lending company addressing one of the industry's biggest financial pain points — cash flow constraints for subcontractors. Solidus empowers subcontractors by providing capital solutions for retention and material procurement, helping them maintain liquidity and continue operating efficiently. In 2024, Solidus was recognized as ACG's Start-Up of the Year, underscoring its role in transforming financial stability within the construction sector. A Southern California native, Jeff's passion for building extends beyond construction sites — he's committed to community development through Paragon's employee-led charitable giving initiative and partnerships with organizations like HomeAid. His leadership in both construction management and financial innovation continues to shape the industry, ensuring projects are not only built but built successfully.



Kirby Hays

Kirby Hays is a prominent leader in the construction sector, serving as the President & CEO of both Hal Hays Construction, Inc., and sister company Cal Pacific Constructors, Inc. His career, initiated in 2002 as a continuation of his father's legacy, has been marked by a series of significant achievements. Under Kirby's strategic leadership, the Hays Group of Companies continues to flourish and make a positive impact throughout the Western United States. Kirby's innovative approach to the industry was recognized in 2023 when he received the Inland Empire's Corporate Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Spirit of Entrepreneur Awards. That same year, under his stewardship, Cal Pacific Constructors was honored as the Southern California Minority Supplier of the Year by the SCMSDC, reflecting the company's notable growth, service excellence, and commitment to community support. Kirby's list of accolades is extensive and includes receiving the 2024 Gwen Moore Diversity Award from Southern California Edison, the 2024 ACG Sustained Growth Award, and the NMSDC National Minority Supplier of the Year in 2018, a national recognition of his leadership and company performance. Additionally, he has been honored four times as the SCMSDC Southern California Minority Supplier of the Year, affirming his consistent excellence in the industry. His early career achievements were also highlighted with his inclusion in the NCAEID Native American 40 Under 40 list in 2022, celebrating his substantial contributions at a young age. Apart from his business successes, Kirby is deeply engaged in philanthropy. He notably serves as the Vice Chair of the Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire, contributing significantly to the mentoring and support of youth. His commitment to positive societal impact extends to his role on the Board of Directors for the SCMSDC, where he promotes diversity and inclusion within the business community. Kirby's educational foundation is robust, with diplomas from prestigious programs at the Northwestern Kellogg School of Business, the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and the UCLA Anderson School of Management for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. These educational accolades have provided a strong base for his leadership and entrepreneurial endeavors, establishing Kirby Hays as a visionary leader and committed philanthropist in the construction industry.



Judges



Eduardo Jordan

Ed Jordan is currently a Governing Board Member of the USC Leventhal School of Accounting. He has served as CFO and Senior V.P. of Operations at Ketel One Vodka and helped grow the company from virtually unknown to one of the leading top shelf vodka importers in the U.S. Also, while serving Ketel One, he was the lead manager of the U.S. finance and personnel function during the completion of the distribution joint venture between the company and Diageo. He was an ACG Award winner while he served as CFO of Nolet Spirits. Over the years, Ed has negotiated several sales and acquisitions in the building material sector. He has since retired and enjoys sitting on various boards and serving as an ACG Awards Gala judge.



Francisco J. Morales

Morales is recognized for his contributions to product innovation and entrepreneurship. Throughout his career, he has secured patents for best-selling products that have set industry standards. His entrepreneurial endeavors span across various sectors, demonstrating his versatility and innovative spirit. Esteemed organizations, including the Orange County Business Journal (OCBJ), have recognized him as a committed entrepreneur and innovator. Under his leadership, 5.11 received the prestigious Global ACG Award in 2020. Additionally, Morales is an active member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), where he has served on the board of his local chapter in several capacities, including as Chapter Chair.



Ahmad Malkawi

Ahmad Malkawi has an extensive background in telecommunications, and his career showcases impressive leadership and technical expertise. Currently serving as the CEO of Global Telecom Engineering, he has been instrumental in driving the company's growth, particularly in North American markets. His ability to secure contracts with tier-1 cellular carriers and forge strategic partnerships with distribution channels and IoT veterans highlights his deep industry connections. His previous role as Senior Engineering VP/Partner at AIM Wireless Solutions also demonstrates his strong technical and business acumen. Notably, he developed innovative software like InterMod60TM and Genesis, both of which have had a significant impact on the telecom industry, helping companies like Sprint/T-Mobile and many others with crucial RF and interference analysis. Mr. Malkawi's trajectory began with his work at AT&T Wireless/Bell Labs and led him through various leadership positions at major firms such as Crown Castle International, Lucent Technologies, Sprint/T-Mobile, Qualcomm, and Motorola. His academic background in Electrical Engineering from Minnesota State University complements his broad range of professional accomplishments, making him a key figure in the telecom industry.



Judges



Brent M Kulp

Brent started in the highway safety business in 1988 when he joined a very young start-up company called Traffix Devices, Inc., founded by Brent's father, Jack, in 1987. At that time, Brent worked as the Western Region Sales Manager for Traffix, covering everything from Texas up to North Dakota and all states west from there, including Western Canada. In 1998, Brent was promoted to VP Sales and Marketing, where he managed a team of sales and marketing professionals covering the entire US while still having direct sales responsibility for the untapped International market. In 2020, Brent assumed the role of President and CEO of Traffix Devices, which requires him to be involved in all aspects of the business, including manufacturing, distribution, automation and expansion, as well as new product development, with an objective of developing and utilizing more recycled materials in many of Traffix Devices' products. Brent is a native of California and a graduate of California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, California, where he studied business and marketing.



Guy Marsala

Guy Marsala is an accomplished CEO, Independent Director, Operating Partner, Consultant, Executive Coach, and military veteran. He has built companies ranging from Fortune 500 (PepsiCo, Aramark, and American Hospital Supply) to private equity portfolio companies, family-owned businesses, and public companies. Guy has served on 13 boards and is available for appropriate Board assignments, including Compensation and Audit committee roles. He also has experience serving as Board Chair with three companies.



Liz McKinley

Liz McKinley started her illustrious career at Koch Industries as the first female oil trader. After working for various trading companies, she decided to leverage her experience and start her own wholesale distribution business in 1995. Liz is a prior winner of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year award and the AGC Founder's Award in 2022, as well as the OCBJ Business Woman of the Year. Liz founded Pinnacle Petroleum, Inc., which has delivered fuel, lubricants, and specialty fuels nationwide for 27 years. Based in Orange County, Pinnacle is a best-in-class provider of fuel and fuel management services to commercial, retail, and government clients throughout the United States. Since founding the company, Liz has been a key component of Pinnacle's growth and success. Operating initially out of her home, the company steadily grew to just under 500M in revenue in 2022. Liz is known to be a hands-on leader who eagerly shares her knowledge with employees and fosters an environment of growth.



Judges



Adam Townsend

Adam Townsend has served as VIZIO Holding Corp's Chief Financial Officer since May 2020, where he led the company's IPO on the NYSE in March 2021. Prior to joining VIZIO, Mr. Townsend was the Chief Financial Officer of Showtime Networks Inc., an entertainment company and wholly owned subsidiary of ViacomCBS, from October 2018 to March 2020. From July 2008 to October 2018, Mr. Townsend held a variety of roles in finance, treasury, and investor relations at CBS Corporation, where he received numerous All-American Executive Awards from Institutional Investor Magazine's annual investor survey of corporate executives. Mr. Townsend also serves on the national board of The Posse Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on education access and achievement. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and resides in Southern California with his wife and two children.



Todd Watts

Todd Watts is the CEO & Founder of PatientFi, a leading payments technology company that enhances patient access to healthcare through its financing and subscription point of sale platform. Under Todd's leadership, PatientFi has helped 350,000 patients get approved for over \$3 billion in medical procedure costs. Today, PatientFi operates across all 50 states with a partnership customer network of over 5,000 medical practices. PatientFi was recently ranked the 128th fastest-growing private company in the United States by Inc. Magazine and ranked by Deloitte as the 54th fastest growing technology company in North America. In 2024, Todd was awarded the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® Pacific Southwest Award, recognizing his leadership and dedication to making healthcare procedures more attainable for patients. Before founding PatientFi in 2017, Todd held senior leadership roles in financial services and healthcare, including serving as Senior Vice President and Head of Operations at Alphaeon, the parent company of Evolus (NASDAQ: EOLS) and Alphaeon Credit. Earlier in his career, he worked in investment banking at J.P. Morgan in New York focusing on M&A for companies in the healthcare and consumer products industries. Prior to J.P. Morgan, Todd was an Investment Associate at Wilshire Associates Funds Management Group. In addition to his executive responsibilities, Todd is actively involved in local community and professional organizations in Orange County, serving on several boards, including the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Board, Yale Alumni OC Board, and the SoCal Board of YPO. Todd earned his MBA from Yale University and a BS from the University of Southern California.



Committee Captains

Serving as an ACG Awards Captain is an honor reserved for a dedicated group of committee leaders. It requires a significant commitment of time and effort in vetting our many nominees as well as coordinating key elements of the event itself. We wish to extend a special thanks to these “pearls” for their shining work!



Brandon Barrett
MBA
Sustained Growth



Andrea Casaw
Spotlight



Christopher Dewhurst
*Green/
Sustainability*



Jim Downes
Corporate Responsibility



Lauren Ellermeyer
Judging



Bill Fowler
Innovation



Scott Jones
Judging



Mike Paleo
Sponsorship



Stephen Paulin
Founders



Eric Roark
Global and Nominations



Jim Scheinkman
Nominations



Philip Schroeder
Start-Up



Dan Stevens
Reinventing



Larry Webb
Sponsorship



Paul Wirth, CEPA
Emerging Growth



Program Agenda

5:00 - 6.30 PM
Reception

6:30 - 8:30 PM
Dinner and Awards



Emcee - Jane Wells

Jane Wells is an award-winning broadcast journalist with 40 years experience in the news media. She's covered everything from earthquakes to riots, from the O.J. Simpson trials to Mother Teresa's funeral, from the massacre at Columbine to the 2008 financial collapse. She has questioned CEOs about poor business decisions, posed as a prostitute for a story on AIDS, appeared in the "Seinfeld" finale, and even visited a group of professional cuddlers to see if the business was legit (it is). Jane also writes "Wells \$treet," a snarky take on the business world, for Substack.

Order of Awards

Start-Up

A company with at least one million in current revenue, in existence five years or less, that offers a unique or disruptive product or service and has significant growth prospects.

Green/Sustainability

An environmentally friendly company that has a unique product, manufacturing process, service or vendor relationship benefitting our environment. A company that stewards long-term consumer and employee value by implementing a "green strategy" designed to respect and sustain the natural environment.

Corporate Responsibility

A company that has contributed to the community in a significant way.

Global

A dynamic, growing company headquartered in Orange County or the Inland Empire with operations worldwide.

Reinventing

A company that reinvented a process, system or business to compete in their market. May also be a successful turnaround.

Innovation

A company that uses innovation to differentiate itself in the marketplace and drive the success of its business.

Emerging Growth

A company with annual revenue under \$50M that exhibits distinctive strategic positioning, sustainable growth and profit over the last two to three years.

Sustained Growth

A company with annual revenue over \$50M that exhibits distinctive strategic positioning, sustainable growth and profit over the last two to three years.

Founders

Long-standing business leader for corporate growth and community service.

Spotlight

A company that has experienced a significant M&A transaction, or a PE-backed company, demonstrating above average financial performance.



Start Up - Finalists



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Daisy is the first national brand in home and small business technology installation and services. Launched in January 2024, Daisy has acquired 11 existing home technology businesses to date and franchised 9 companies, establishing over 15 locations across the country. Daisy's locations install and service televisions, speakers, home theaters, conference rooms, motorized shades, lighting, security cameras, and control systems. Daisy provides its branches and technicians with the resources and support needed to provide world class customer service, including call center, HR, accounting, recurring services, M&A, and marketing. Daisy's technicians collaborate closely with homeowners as well as architects, designers, and custom builders to install technology for clients and then to steward clients through their technology needs for their lives.

Daisy
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Green/Sustainability - Finalists



Freedom Forever was founded on a simple belief: homeowners deserve cleaner, more affordable energy options. Our mission is to accelerate residential solar adoption across the U.S., and we've grown to become one of the nation's largest solar installers. With a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, every system is installed by our own W2 employees—never outsourced. Each step of the process is designed with the homeowner in mind. We also offer a unique 25-year production guarantee: if your system underperforms, we'll reimburse you for the difference. At Freedom Forever, we're committed to delivering reliable solar solutions you can count on.

Freedom Forever
43445 Business Park Dr #110
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www.freedomforever.com



Located in Anaheim, Waev is an electric mobility provider dedicated to solving challenges with nimble innovation and comprehensive solutions. Waev proudly manufactures, distributes, markets, and supports the GEM, Taylor-Dunn, and Tiger brands. We believe meaningful connections power the future, an agile attitude creates positive momentum, and a dedication to quality, safety, and sustainability are our top priorities. GEM has been a leader in the LSV space for 25 years. Taylor-Dunn has a 70-year legacy of providing trusted industrial vehicles to the market. Tiger tow tractors have been towing cargo, baggage, parcel, and other equipment in ground support applications since 1981.

Waev, Inc.
www.waevinc.com



Wilson Creek Winery is a family-owned and operated winery in Temecula Valley, celebrating 25 years of winemaking & hospitality excellence. Committed to responsible land stewardship, the winery integrates regenerative agriculture practices to improve soil health and vineyard longevity. Over the years, Wilson Creek has grown into a respected leader in the region, combining tradition with innovation while offering a renowned hospitality experience. The winery remains rooted in family values, fostering a collaborative and welcoming environment. As it marks this milestone anniversary, Wilson Creek continues to focus on quality winemaking, community engagement, and preserving the integrity of its vineyards for future generations.

Wilson Creek Winery and Viney
www.wilsoncreekwinery.com



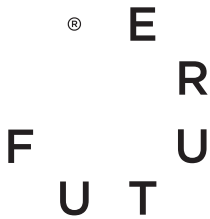
Corporate Responsibility - Finalists



Our mission is simple: to create beautiful, comfortable footwear you can live in and love. Designed in California and handmade in Mexico and Brazil, each pair of Beek shoes is crafted with care—taking over 48 hours to make—using the softest vegetable-tanned leather and featuring a molded arch for extra comfort. Timeless, feminine, and luxurious, they're perfect for travel or everyday wear.

We also have a greater purpose: fighting childhood hunger in the U.S. Since launching in 2015, we've partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank's Childhood Hunger Strategy. For every pair of shoes sold, we donate a day's worth of meals to a child in need.

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FutureStitch is a global textile and technology leader known for advanced performance socks, knit shoes, and sleeves—and even more so for driving ecological progress and social change. With production hubs in China and the U.S., FutureStitch holds the highest LEED Platinum and SA8000 Certifications for sustainability and social accountability. The company focuses on employing justice-impacted individuals, measuring success by employee well-being, retention, and recidivism. Through its Second Stitch program, workers gain job opportunities, life skills, and hope. FutureStitch represents a new generation of companies committed to people and planet through innovative products, responsible practices, and a mission-driven approach to impact.

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San Clemente CA 92672
www.futurestitch.com



Strategic Kids' mission is to seamlessly blend education with fun, empowering students to thrive in their futures by teaching life strategies through games. For over 12 years, the organization has partnered with over 300 schools, school districts, cities, and vendors by providing in-school workshops, paraeducators, teacher aides, and after-school programming for TK/K–8th-grade students. Their enrichment offerings span various subjects, from chess, LEGO®, magic, and origami to sports and cartooning.

StrategicKids
26941 Cabot Rd #109
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
www.strategickids.com



Global - Finalists



KTM North America, Inc. is a subsidiary of KTM AG, the leading motorcycle manufacturer in Europe. Located in Murrieta, CA, the headquarters is part of KTM North America's commitment to growing the sport of motorcycling through continuous investment in infrastructure, research and development, technical training, and continuing education for the company's class-leading products and technology. With just over 300 employees, KTM has the clear goal of further expanding its pioneering role in terms of technology, sales, and image in the motorcycle community.

KTM North America
30125 KTM Way
Murrieta, CA 92563
www.ktm.com/us



Nearsol began as a call center and back-office service provider for the real estate industry before expanding into a full-service BPO provider in 2011. Since then, we've evolved to offer contact center as-a-service, seat leasing, and specialized solutions in WFMAaaS, QAaaS, and ITaaS. In 2020, we launched Cxparts to focus exclusively on full-service BPO operations. With a presence in the U.S., Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines, Guatemala, Belize, and South Africa, Nearsol is the only BPO provider offering both global outsourcing services and complete contact center buildouts, delivering scalable, high-performance solutions worldwide.

Nearsol
28202 Cabot Rd, Suite 300
Laguna Niguel, CA 91710
www.nearsol.com



Worldwide Environmental Products, Inc. is a family-owned company headquartered in Orange County, California, and a global leader in vehicle safety and emissions inspection technologies. Founded with a vision for cleaner air and safer roads, Worldwide has grown significantly, acquiring Spain-based Ryme and forming the Worldwide Group, serving over 90 countries. With cutting-edge hardware, software, and data management solutions tailored for government inspection programs, the company has pioneered innovations like tablet-based inspection systems and advanced cloud-based reporting. Trusted by regulatory agencies across the globe on nearly every continent, Worldwide Environmental Products delivers comprehensive, reliable, and efficient technologies that drive environmental progress and road safety on a global scale.

Worldwide Environmental Products, Inc.
1100 Beacon Street
Brea, CA 92821
www.wep-inc.com



Reinventing - Finalists



Brave Thinking Institute, the world's premier center for transformational training and coaching, has empowered tens of thousands of individuals for over 15 years to create lives they truly love. Founded by Mary Morrissey, widely considered the world's foremost expert on "dream-building," the Institute believes everyone deserves a life filled with purpose, passion, fulfillment, and success. BTI provides a proven system to break through limitations and achieve extraordinary results. Through live events, programs, courses, and certifications, BTI equips individuals with the strategies, mindset shifts, and support to manifest their visions, guiding them every step of the way.

Brave Thinking Institute

31441 Santa Margarita Pkwy #A364
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
www.bravethinkinginstitute.com



Gatekeeper Systems is a global leader in retail loss prevention, offering patented technologies like cart containment and pushout theft prevention with exclusive locking features. Our solutions help retailers reduce theft, prevent cart loss, and provide evidence to support investigations. With the recent acquisition of FaceFirst, we've added AI-powered face-matching software to further prevent violence, theft, and fraud. Protecting over ten million carts worldwide, Gatekeeper enhances store safety, protects employees and shoppers, and increases profits. What began 26 years ago as a company focused on managing shopping carts in parking lots has evolved into a tech-driven innovator—thanks to ongoing collaboration and innovation with our retail partners.

Gatekeeper Systems

90 Icon
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
www.gatekeepersystems.com



At Pro-Dex we have extensive experience in design and manufacturing for the medical device and healthcare industry. In addition to our engineering, contract manufacturing and regulatory support, assembly and testing services, we have an in-house product portfolio our customers can distribute or modify for their specific market needs. Pro-Dex is a vertically integrated high precision contract manufacturer and services provider with off the shelf product solutions and unparalleled engineering capabilities to get you to market faster. Our mission is to empower our employees to drive innovation that will enable us to provide our customer with State-of-the-Art Tech in devices that will ensure the surgical outcomes that surgeons & patients expect and deserve.

Pro-Dex

2362 McGaw Avenue
Irvine, CA 92614
www.pro-dex.com



Innovation - Finalists

CODAZEN

Codazen is a digital engineering agency that empowers brands through innovative technology and design services. Founded in 2007 by Michael Merchant, Codazen collaborates with leading brands to design and engineer digital products and services that drive meaningful impact. We specialize in custom software engineering and design to enhance brand equity and revenue. Codazen is developing proprietary technologies like Ready3D to enhance product experiences and digital interactions. Ready3D is a service Codazen offers that transforms traditional 2D web and email content into immersive 3D experiences accessible directly in users' browsers. Additionally, Ready3D facilitates the creation of virtual tours, showcasing unique rooms, locations, or destinations in a visually compelling way to increase conversions.

Codazen
www.codazen.com



Experian is a global data and technology company, powering opportunities for people and businesses around the world. We help to redefine lending practices, uncover and prevent fraud, simplify healthcare, deliver digital marketing solutions, and gain deeper insights into the automotive market, all using our unique combination of data, analytics, and software. We also assist millions of people in realizing their financial goals and help them to save time and money.

Experian North America
475 Anton Blvd
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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Genomic Testing Cooperative (GTC) is a different kind of cancer diagnostic laboratory. Our cooperative model allows us to partner with laboratories, hospitals, oncology practices, and medical professionals to share resources, which create efficiencies in cost, turnaround time, and quality. In creating a network of Co-Op partners, we help get results to physicians faster, share knowledge, and generate better outcomes for patients. Our testing is focused on comprehensive profiling of DNA and RNA in hematologic neoplasms and solid tumors, embracing the latest sequencing technology and informatics tools, providing better insights into the patient's tumor signature. Our RNA sequencing capabilities go beyond just the detection of fusions and include alternative splicing, gene expression, and prediction.

Genomic Testing Cooperative
25371 Commercentre Dr.
Lake Forest, CA 92630
www.genomictestingcooperative.com



Emerging Growth - Finalists



Whether you're seeking one-of-a-kind vintage finds or unique multiples, you'll discover exactly what you're looking for at Found Rental Co. For over 15 years, owner and designer Jeni Maus has scoured the globe, handpicking pieces that embody charm and character. From vintage furniture to custom-built pieces and modern finds, every item has been thoughtfully curated to elevate your event into an unforgettable experience. At Found, you're not just renting items; you're adding layers of history and creativity to your occasion. Let your event be full of unforgettable moments set against the backdrop of Found's curated treasures.

Found Rental Co.
2100 E Valencia Dr., Suite D
Fullerton, CA 92831
www.foundrentalco.com



Building exceptional products requires a unique blend of experience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to quality. With over four decades of expertise in Contract Electronics Manufacturing (CEM), Semi-Kinetics has honed its craft, consistently delivering superior products that exceed customer expectations. Central to our success is a dynamic leadership team and a highly skilled workforce, dedicated to driving quality, continuous improvement, and total customer satisfaction, solidifying Semi-Kinetics' position as a premier provider of Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS). Semi-Kinetics specializes in systems integration, or "box build" assembly. Our expertise spans a spectrum of complexities, from housing a printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) within an enclosure to assembling intricate electromechanical systems complete with cables, circuit cards, and power devices. With our box build services, quality permeates every stage of the process, underpinned by our robust supply chain network, ensuring access to premium materials at competitive prices.

Semi-Kinetics
www.semi-kinetics.com



Sustained Growth - Finalists



Archer is one of America's leading and fastest-growing meat snack brands. Our jerky, sticks, and sausages are made from real ingredients—like 100% grass-fed beef and all-natural turkey seasoned with real herbs and spices. Founded in 1977 as a roadside jerky stand and acquired by Eugene and Susan Kang in 2011, today Archer is a major player in the meat snack industry, with more than 30 SKUs. From grocery stores to airports, you can find Archer in 30,000+ locations nationwide. Archer has reimagined meat snacks from road trip treats to daily protein snacks that are stocked in pantries across the country.

Archer Meat Snacks
1055 E Cooley Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92408
www.archerjerky.com



Founded in 2011 by the Cardenas family and former Mission Foods leaders, Magnolia Foods, LLC was created to offer authentic, high-quality tortillas and related products to Southern California communities. Today, Magnolia produces corn and flour tortillas, tortilla chips, sopes, pinwheels, and bakery items under the El Comal brand and private labels. Its dedication to quality and authenticity has made it the third-largest tortilla brand—and the largest independent one—in the world's biggest tortilla market: Southern California. Magnolia operates two facilities in the Inland Empire totaling over 200,000 square feet and employs 450 team members, continuing to grow while staying true to its roots.

Magnolia Foods
11058 Philadelphia Ave.
Mira Loma, CA 91752
www.magfoods.com



OluKai is a lifestyle brand rooted in the belief that anyone, anywhere, can live Aloha. Inspired by the ocean, OluKai designs thoughtfully crafted footwear with comfort and durability in mind. With retail locations in Hawai'i and top-tier retail partners, the brand is committed to quality and purpose. Every pair sold supports the Ama OluKai Foundation, which furthers community-focused initiatives in Hawai'i. As a Certified B-Corporation, OluKai prioritizes sustainability by reducing wastewater, limiting hazardous substances, and producing long-lasting products to minimize environmental impact. Discover more at www.OluKai.com or #AnywhereAloha

OluKai
10 Faraday
Irvine, CA 92618
www.olukai.com



Founders - Finalists



Since 2003, Avanti has been a trusted leader in food service planning, design, and execution, helping businesses of all sizes bring their culinary visions to life with precision and innovation. We create high-performance spaces that maximize efficiency, optimize workflow, and enhance guest experiences. Our team of seasoned industry experts understands the complexities of food service operations firsthand. With deep knowledge and strategic partnerships with top-tier manufacturers, we carefully select equipment for quality, function, and long-term value. As a privately owned firm, we are committed to our clients' success—delivering customized solutions that align with their vision, budget, and operational goals. Let's build something extraordinary together.

Avanti Restaurant Solutions
3199-C Airport Loop Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
www.avanticorporate.com



Outside The Lines, Inc. (OTL), is an Orange County-based design-build construction company that creates water features, rockwork, and themed environments that entertain, drive traffic, and support retail, hospitality, and other businesses around the world. From innovative designs to careful construction and attention to detail, OTL is influencing the commercial real estate industry to do exactly what its name suggests: think outside the lines. OTL continues to demonstrate through its astounding creations that it can dramatically transform both public and private spaces through its memorable work—and that communities can thrive and prosper because of it.

Outside The Lines
2150 S Towne Centre Place, Suite 100
Anaheim, CA 92806
www.otl-inc.com



Wahoo's Fish Tacos is a vibrant, fast-casual dining destination known for its creative take on coastal cuisine. With 50 locations across California, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, New Jersey, and Japan, Wahoo's offers a relaxed, beach-inspired atmosphere with bold flavors and fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The menu features signature fish tacos, hearty burritos, and inventive salads, reflecting Baja and Pacific culinary traditions. A commitment to quality and sustainability drives every dish, making each visit an inviting, community-focused experience. Wahoo's Fish Tacos continues to expand its global footprint while delighting customers with its unique culinary flair and inspiring smiles everywhere daily.

Wahoo's Fish Tacos
1185 Warner Avenue
Tustin, CA 92780
www.wahoos.com



Spotlight M&A - Finalists



Alongside was established by combining the strengths of two trusted leaders in behavioral health—Autism Spectrum Interventions (ASI) and Quality Behavior Solutions (QBS). Together, we've combined expertise to provide personalized, person-centered Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services designed to meet the unique needs of individuals with autism. Our compassionate team offers support in homes, schools, and centers throughout Southern California, fostering growth, independence, and well-being. With a commitment to nurturing environments, we partner with families to navigate challenges and celebrate progress—creating spaces where every individual can grow, connect, and succeed.

Alongside
www.alongside-aba.com



Biometrics4ALL, founded in 2005, is a global leader in biometric identity solutions, transforming law enforcement and background checks with cutting-edge technology. Headquartered in Irvine, CA, this trusted FBI Authorized Channeler provides secure, efficient Live Scan fingerprinting services, processing over 15 million applicants and serving customers in 20 countries. With a network of 1,600+ service centers and FIPS 140-2 certified encrypted storage, Biometrics4ALL ensures compliance, accuracy, and speed. Serving government, law enforcement, and commercial sectors, its innovative software and turnkey solutions streamline biometric data collection, automated billing, and centralized management—making identity management more reliable and accessible worldwide.

Biometrics4ALL
18300 Von Karman Ave, Ste 700
Irvine, CA 92612
www.biometrics4all.com



L Squared seeks to make long-term investments in leading growth companies that operate in targeted sectors: Education Technology, Tech-Enabled Services & Software, and Industrial Technology & Services. We have over 125 years of collective experience investing in rapidly growing companies. Since its founding in July of 2014, L Squared has raised four funds and accepted commitments of over \$2 billion from its investors. Our unique investor base of primarily family offices enables us to focus on long-term value creation driven by revenue and earnings growth, not financial engineering. We build flexible capital structures around each investment. We empower our management team partners to execute their vision while playing a collaborative role to help address the challenges that rapidly growing businesses encounter.

L Squared
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November 2024

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
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
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