



Howard County Chamber of Commerce Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE)

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE) are presented each year to deserving Chamber members who have demonstrated a continuing commitment to the overall mission of the Chamber and individual programs.

The 2019 ACE Awards will be presented at the Signature Event on October 5 at Turf Valley Resort. Recipients must be Chamber members in good standing. There are 5 categories: Large Business of the Year (over 100 employees), Small Business of the Year (less than 100 employees), Entrepreneur of the Year, Business Person of the Year, and the GovConnects Government Contract of the Year (awarded by GovConnects).

Businesses may be nominated for the Small or Large Business of the Year Awards by completing an application, being nominated by a third party, or being nominated by the Business Recognition Committee. The awards will be presented to businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to the Chamber through volunteerism and support of Chamber programs and events through sponsorship and attendance. Contributions to the development and support of the general business community and involvement in community charitable and educational programs will also be evaluated.

Individuals may be nominated for the Business Person of the Year Award by completing an application, being nominated by a third party, or being nominated by the Business Recognition committee. There are many outstanding individuals within the Howard County Chamber business community who have done much to foster the growth of business through a demonstrated history of business development that has contributed to the economic well-being and overall quality of life for Howard County. He/she should be a well-respected individual acknowledged as a business leader and one who demonstrates the highest ethical business practices. The winner of this award should demonstrate their commitment the Chamber, and to the Howard County area by service on non-profit boards and other public service.

Individuals may be nominated for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award by being nominated by the Business Recognition Committee or completing an application highlighting their entrepreneurial success, obstacles that they may have overcome, and business achievements. Qualified nominees are a business/ person creating a concept or idea, growing a business, establishing a reputation of excellence, a role model and have demonstrated active commitment to the Chamber and the Howard County community.

Businesses or individuals may be nominated for the Community Impact Award by completing an application, being nominated by a third party, or being nominated by the Business Recognition Task Force. The award will be presented to an individual or non-profit organization or similar entity that embodies a spirit of volunteerism, altruism and or respect, accomplishes significant results on behalf of the community, and has demonstrated a commitment to the Chamber, the business community, charitable and/or educational programs. The individual or organization supports and demonstrates a collaborative spirit through creative partnerships and inspires others by their example. This award is not



presented annually, but instead when an individual or organization has gone above and beyond and deserves special recognition.

Exemplar Award Criteria: Established in 2005, the Exemplar Award was created to recognize individuals who, in addition to achievement in their chosen field, have demonstrated extraordinary service and commitment to both the business and the overall Howard County community. The nominee should reflect a demonstrated commitment in service and participation on non-profit boards, have a strong history in giving above-self, be a well-known pillar of the community, and instantly recognizable among all constituencies including business, civic and government. This award is not presented annually, but instead when an individual has gone above and beyond and deserves special recognition.