

The Cascade Capital Corporation 2011 BUSINESS GROWTH AWARDS PROGRAM

To: Growing companies and professional service organizations

From: Robert Filipiak, Executive Director, Cascade Capital Corp.

Subject: The 2011 Business Growth Awards Program



A certified development corporation

Cascade Capital Corp. and the sponsors of the **2011 Business Growth Awards program** invite you to celebrate your company's success or that of your clients by submitting your nomination (see the back of this letter for instructions and nomination form).

The Business Growth Awards recognize and honor businesses from our seven-county region that have achieved superior growth in sales and/or employment over the past five years.* We recognize that operating conditions have been uniquely challenging in recent years so we encourage any company that has experienced sales or employee growth since 2006 to participate in the awards program.

Each qualifying nominee will be recognized for his or her company's success in one of three categories:

- **Service**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Technology**

Specialty awards will be presented within each category for:

- **Highest Sales Growth**
- **Greatest Employee Growth**
- **Best Overall Success Story**

The most prestigious honor, **The FirstMerit Legacy Award**, will be presented to a business organization that has demonstrated the greatest economic impact within its region and has previously won a minimum of four Business Growth Awards.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award will be presented to a local business leader who best exemplifies entrepreneurship by leading a dynamic, growing organization and inspiring others through innovative business practices.

Nominate your qualified customers and/or your own firm for a 2011 Business Growth Award. There is no limit to the nominations you may submit.

Additional nomination forms are available from Cascade Capital Corp. at www.cascadecapital.org or from Smart Business at www.sbnonline.com. Photocopies will be accepted.

Winners will be notified in August 2011 and formally honored at the Business Growth Awards on October 6, 2011. All winners will be featured in the October edition of *Smart Business Akron/Canton*. Feel free to contact me at (330) 379-3160 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Filipiak
Cascade Capital Corp.

* Business must be located in Summit, Medina, Stark, Portage, Wayne, Ashland or Holmes counties to participate.



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NOMINATION FORM

General Recognition Criteria*:

1. Business must be located in Summit, Medina, Stark, Portage, Wayne, Ashland or Holmes county.
2. Over the past five years, sales must have increased by 100 percent or \$5 million; **OR**
3. Over the past five years, the number of full-time employees must have increased by 50 percent or 25 employees.

* We recognize that operating conditions have been uniquely challenging in recent years so we encourage any company that has experienced sales or employee growth since 2006 to participate in the awards program.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 19, 2011

Company name: _____ Year founded: _____

CEO/President: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Web site URL: _____

Business description/product/service: _____

Contributions to local economy over past five years: _____

Attach an essay of no less than 250 words with your nomination that details your company's most significant achievements or success stories during the past five years. This may include, but is not limited to, product innovation, sales growth, expansion and economic obstacles. To be eligible for the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, also include information about how you lead and inspire your employees to reach new heights.

List previous year(s) you received a Cascade Capital Business Growth Award: _____

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sales	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Employment	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Nominated by/company: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Nominee's accounting firm: (Optional) _____

Nominee's law firm: (Optional) _____

Nominee's bank: (Optional) _____

Financial data disclosed to Cascade Capital Corp. judging panel only. (Confidentiality agreements on file)

Return to: Robert Filipiak, Cascade Capital Corp.
One Cascade Plaza, 18th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308
Phone: (330) 379-3160; Fax: (330) 761-0307

