



**The ESOP Association** *News Release*  
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## **The ESOP Association Honors Members for Excellence in Employee Ownership Communications**

**May 6, 2009 (Washington, DC)** –The ESOP Association is pleased to announce the 2009 winners of the Annual Awards for Communications Excellence (AACE). The AACE Awards are sponsored each year by the Association to recognize the outstanding communications and educational programs of its members. The awards were presented May 5, 2009 at the Association's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference in Washington, DC to companies who have excelled in communicating the ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) and its meaning to employee owners.

AACE Award winners are chosen by a panel of five judges made up of both management and non-management employee owners, each of whom has demonstrated active experience and interest in the field of ESOPs and employee ownership communications. Awards are based on: overall quality and quantity of employee owner education, contributions of employee owners, integration of the ESOP into company culture, frequency of ownership communications, involvement and/or response of employee owners, encouragement of ownership attitudes, clear explanations, creative ideas, graphic design, and technical quality.

The 2009 AACE Award winners are:

### **Category 1-A, Total Communications Program, 100 or fewer employees**

*Winner:* Nobis Engineering Inc., Concord, NH

*Runner Up:* The Onyx Group, Alexandria, VA

### **Category 1-B, Total Communications Program, 101 - 500 employees**

*Winner:* Thomson-Shore, Inc., Dexter, MI

*Runner Up:* Materials Transportation Company, Temple, TX

### **Category 1-C, Total Communications Program, 501 – 1,000 employees**

*Winner:* Douglas Machine Inc., Alexandria, MN

*Runner Up:* Entertainment Partners, Burbank, CA

### **Category 1-D, Total Communications Program, 1,001 – 5,000 employees**

*Winner:* AMERICAN SYSTEMS CORPORATION, Chantilly, VA

*Runner Up:* Hot Dog on a Stick, Carlsbad, CA

### **Category 2, Audio Visual**

*Winner:* Mills James, Inc., Hilliard, OH

*Runner Up:* Harrell Remodeling, Inc., Mountain View, CA

**Category 3-A, Printed Materials, 250 or fewer employees**

*Winner:* MidSouth Building Supply, Inc., Springfield, VA

*Runner Up:* Quadna Inc., Phoenix, AZ

**Category 3-B, Printed Materials, over 250 employees**

*Winner:* KAPCO, Brea, CA

*Runner Up:* The Walman Optical Company, Minneapolis, MN

**Category 4-A, Educational Materials, Print**

*Winner:* Parametrix, Inc., Auburn, WA

*Runner Up:* Carris Reels, Rutland, VT

**Category 4-B, Education Materials, ESOP Intranet**

*Winner:* Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., San Francisco, CA

**Category 5-A, External ESOP Advertising, Print**

*Winner:* Carl Warren & Company, Placentia, CA

*Runner Up:* Cisco-Eagle, Inc., Dallas, TX

**Category 5-B, External ESOP Advertising – Website**

*Winner:* Hot Dog on a Stick, Carlsbad, CA

*Runner Up:* Carris Reels, Rutland, VT

**Category 6-A, Special Events, Promotions, 1 Outstanding Event, 250 or fewer employees**

*Winner:* Cisco-Eagle, Inc., Dallas, TX

*Runner Up:* The Onyx Group, Alexandria, VA

**Category 6-B, Special Events, Promotions, 1 Outstanding Event, over 250 employees**

*Winner:* Glatfelter Insurance Group, York, PA

*Runner Up:* Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., Lafayette, LA

**Category 7-A, Special Events, Promotions, Series, 250 or fewer employees**

*Winner:* ComSonics, Inc., Harrisonburg, VA

*Runner Up:* MidSouth Building Supply, Inc., Springfield, VA

**Category 7-B, Special Events, Promotions, Series, over 250 employees**

*Winner:* Forsythe Technology, Inc., Skokie, IL

*Runner Up:* AMERICAN SYSTEMS CORPORATION, Chantilly, VA

The ESOP Association is the national trade association for companies with employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) and the leading voice in America for employee ownership. The core cause of The ESOP Association is the belief that employee ownership will improve American competitiveness, increase productivity through greater employee participation, and strengthen our free enterprise economy.

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