Nothing happens except for the initiative of a single individual – Joel Labovitz
Joel Labovitz Entrepreneurial Success Awards
Award Recipients | 1993 - 2017

2014

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Lake Superior Art Glass* – Dan Neff, Duluth, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Laurentian Monument Granite and Stone* – Kendi and Mark Sutich, Virginia, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Lake Superior Consulting, LLC* – Phillip Powers, Duluth, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Zup’s Market* – Edward J. Zupancich, Babbitt, MN
- **Environmentally Engaged Entrepreneur** – *A Laundry Room Inc* – Rebecca Spengler, Ely, MN
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Kelly Klun
- **Entrepreneurial Vision** – *Bent Paddle Brewing Co.*

2013

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Swanky Sweat Pea* - RaeAnne Conat, International Falls, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Art in the Alley* – Tami LaPole Edmunds and Dan Edmunds, Duluth, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Lake Assault Boats, LLC* – Tom Curelli and Jerry Atherton, Superior, WI
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Wagner Construction Inc.* – Dennis Wagner, International Falls, MN
- **Environmentally Engaged Entrepreneur** – *Locally Laid Egg Company* – Lucie and Jason Amundsen, Wrenshall, MN
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Nicholas Minardi
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Lee R. Anderson and J.R. ‘Rob’ Link

2012

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Lakeside Gourmet* – Brenda Jones and Colleen Fletcher, International Falls, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Timberlake Lodge Hotel and Event Center* – Mary F. Ives, Grand Rapids, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Duluth Grill* – Jaima and Tom Hanson, Duluth, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *IDEA Drilling* – Pam and Dick Backstrom, Eveleth, MN
- **Innovation** – *IKONICS Corporation* – Bill Ulland, CEO, Duluth, MN
- **Entrepreneurial Achievement** – Rockie Kavajecz, Island Investments
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership in Education** – Ron Ulseth
- **Entrepreneurial Vision** – Donald L. Negley

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2011

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Little Neetchers* – Joy and Joshua Herbert, Duluth, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** - *aimClear®* - Marty Weintraub, Duluth, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** - *Scheuring Speed Sports* – Steve Scheuring, Aurora, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Rainy Lake Houseboats* – Bill, Cathie, and Tom Dougherty, International Falls, MN
- **Innovation** – *New Vintage Amplifiers, LLC* – Nic Patullo, Duluth, MN
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Michael J. Lalich
- **Entrepreneurial Vision** – Mark R. Phillips
- **Entrepreneurial Spirit** – Holly C. Sampson

2010

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Up North Stone, Inc.* – Michelle Gunderson and Angel Snidarich, Virginia, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Dynamic Structural Steel* – Jason Erickson, Proctor, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Dockside Fish Market of Grand Marais* – Shele and Harley Toftey, Grand Marais, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Disability Specialists, Inc.* – Tom Ehrbright, Cook, MN
- **Innovation** – *S-O-S, Inc. On Line Leak Sealing* – Jim Carter, Duluth, MN
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Sanford C. Hoff
- **Entrepreneurial Achievement** – Jack H. LaVoy

2009

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Ablaze Custom Cleaning, LLC* – Don Liimatainen Jr., Cloquet, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Monaco Air Duluth* – Don Monaco, Duluth, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *World Block, Inc.* – Dan Stocke and Rod Johnson
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Positively 3rd Street Cooperative Bakery* – Andrea Wood, Michael Latsch (worker-owned business), Duluth, MN
- **Innovation** – *Clearly Superior, Inc.* – Doug Stetzer, Dan Krisak, and James Colborn, Superior, WI
- **Entrepreneurial Vision** – Jeff Asbach and Scott Asbach
- **Entrepreneurial Achievement** – Larry Lehtinen

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2008

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Loni’s Sewing* – Loni Bright, International Falls, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Precision Testing, Inc.* – Connie Pearson, Virginia, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *SCS Aircraft Interiors* – Dave Hudyman and Mike Hudyman, Duluth, MN
- **Innovation** – *Epicurean Cutting Surfaces, Inc.* – Greg Benson, Dave Benson, and Tony Ciardelli, Duluth, MN
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Todd L. Johnson
- **Entrepreneurial Achievement** – Alan Klapmeier and Dale Klapmeier

2007

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Amish Furniture Haus* – Tim and Shelby Huchthausen, Duluth, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Next Generation Ophthalmics* – Robert and Jacquie Honstrom, Grand Rapids, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Tritec of Minnesota, Inc.* – Mitchel C. Robertson, Virginia, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Cutsforth Products, Inc.* – Dave Cutsforth, Cohasset, MN
- **Innovation** – *Iracore International, Inc.* – Daniel O. Burkes, Hibbing, MN
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership in a Public Sector** – Daniel Russell

2006

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Lake Country Machining* – Steve and Clara Mikkelsen, Two Harbors, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Carlson Media, Inc.* – Sandy and John Carlson, Duluth, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Little Bear Lodges, Inc.* – Donald and Roxanne Kain, Grand Rapids, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Fraboni Wholesale Distributor Inc.* – Mark Thune and Wayne Thune, Hibbing, MN
- **Innovative Entrepreneur** – *Ascendview* – Mike Dobe, Duluth, MN
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Jim Marshall and Cindy and Paul Hayden
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Kjell R. Knudsen

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2005

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Inhaler Fishing Tackle Company* – Derek Vekich, Bovey, MN
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Premier Plastics* – Bob Menne III, Hoyt Lakes, MN
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Citon Corporation* – Steven Dastoor and Sean Dean, Duluth, MN
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Northshore Manufacturing, Inc.* – John Anderson, Two Harbors, MN
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Edgar Hetteen
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Dale S. Lewis

2004

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Old House Lights* – Greg Lyons
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Rapids Rental & Supply* – Drew Prochazka
- **Established Entrepreneur** – *Northstar Aerospace* – John Eagleton
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *ASV, Inc.* – Gary Lemke
- **Recognizing Emerging Technologies** – *Mesabi Nugget* – Larry Lehtinen
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Thomas Renier
- **Lifetime Achievement** – John Goldfine

2003

- **Micro Entrepreneur** – *Superior’s Choice Fish* – Stan Hansen & Bruce Ekstrom
- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *The Whistling Bird* – JoPat and Toney Curtis
- **Gazelle (Enterprise) Entrepreneur** – *Trail Center Lodge* – Sarah Hamilton
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Northland Machine Inc.* – Marv Gustafson
- **ENTER (Exploring New Technologies Emerging Regionally)** – *Apprise Technologies* – Christopher Owen
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – William Henning
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Mike Ives
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2002

- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Sinex Aviation* – Barry Sinex
- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *Northern Lights and Lumber, Inc.* – Tim Olson
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *CustomerLink* – Kim Ellerman
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Dr. Michael Johnson
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Bonnie Fena

2001

- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Magomolla Enterprises* – Beth & Immanueli Magomolla
- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *Cabin & Timber* – Dean Poll
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Kasson Mfg.* – Dave Kasper and Wendy Johnson
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Dr. Jo Sertich
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Robert S. Mars, Jr. & Nick Smith

2000

- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Banana Bear Day Care* – Tammy Korhonen
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Samson Harness Shop, Inc.* – Bernard & Susan Samson
- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *Betty’s Pies* – Carl Ehlenz
- **ENTER (Exploring New Technologies Emerging Regionally)** – *McKie Splints* – Anne McKie
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – Mary Mathews

1999

- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *MCM Enterprises* – Deb Mueller
- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *Citon Computer Corp.* – Steven Dastoor & Sean M. Dean
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *A & L Partnership* – Rob Link
- **Inventor** – *Van Technologies* – Larry Van Iseghem
- **David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership** – In Memoriam, David A. Martin
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Roy LaBounty

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1998

- **Emerging Entrepreneur** – *Northern Images* – Brian Leonard
- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *C.P. Internet* – Chad Braafladt
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Hibbing Fabricators, Inc.* – Mark Shervey
- **Inventor** – *P.B. Distributing* – Donald Armstrong & Phil Bolf

1997

- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *New Moon Publishing* – Nancy Gruver & Joe Kelly
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Mat, Inc.* – Joseph T. Karpik
- **Inventor** – *Vantage Point Mfg.* – Tim Raymond
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Erwin & Manley Goldfine

1996

- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *Wintergreen Designs, Inc.* – Susan Hendrickson-Schurke & Paul Schurke
- **Mature Entrepreneur** – *Partridge River, Inc.* – Andrew Richey
- **Inventor** – *FAST, Inc.* – Gerald Karpik
- **Lifetime Achievement** – Don & Gary Moline

1995

- **Start-Up Entrepreneur** – *Granite Gear* – Jeffrey Knight & Daniel Cruikshank
- **Inventor** – *B & S Research* – H.W. Lashmett
- **At-Large** - *Duluth Eng. & Mfg. Co. (DEMCO) Inc.*

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