

2006 Award Winners

Four area technology professionals, two area firms, and two students were recognized for their contributions to the region's technology industry at the AIM Institute's 13th Annual Technology Celebration Banquet held Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at the Qwest Center Omaha.

Anthony DeCanti, Werner Enterprises; Yvette Holly, UNMC; Robert Sweeney, AIM; Craig Dassner, COX; Patrick Artz, Bellevue University; Angelo Privetera, HDR; Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools

K-12 Technology Educator of the Year:

Leonard Kwapnioski, Technical Coordinator, Columbus Public Schools
Technology Professor of the Year:
Patrick Artz, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Bellevue University

Technology Guru of the Year:
Craig Dassner, Senior Sales Engineer, Cox Business Services

Technology Chief of the Year:
Yvette Holly, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Services, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Technology Companies of the Year:
HDR, Inc.
Werner Enterprises

College Intern of the Year:
Alexis Fisher, Peter Kiewit Institute, University of Nebraska-Omaha

High School Intern of the Year:
Codie Bourn, Norfolk High School

The award recipients were selected from nominees in the award categories. Selection was based on the nominees' contributions, either through sustained performance or a special notable achievement, to the region's worldwide reputation for excellence and innovation in information technology.

Master of Ceremonies: Dan Hunt, President of HCI Holdings and Chairman of the Board for the AIM Institute

Keynote Speaker:

Steve

Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computer, Inc., addressed the crowd of over 600 as the evening's keynote speaker. The "Woz" offered some historical anecdotes and put to rest a few "urban legends" from the early days of Apple Computer. He expressed his strong support for helping young people find excitement in learning and suggested that we do not all have to be good at math. We just need to find something we are interested in and pursue it with passion. A philanthropist and humanist, he concluded his comments by saying, "In the long road of technological development, it's important to remember that the human being should be considered more important."