



INDIANAPOLIS (Feb. 3, 2009) - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman joined business leaders from across the state today to present 19 small businesses with the state's first Economic Development through Entrepreneurship (EDGE) Awards during a Statehouse ceremony.

Sponsored by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Development Centers, the awards recognize clients of the agency's 10 regional small business development centers located throughout the state in two categories - emerging and established.

"There is no better story to tell than that of a homegrown Hoosier company that continues to grow and create new jobs," said Skillman. "These 19 companies represent the thousands of Hoosier small businesses that serve as the backbone of our economy."

Recipients of the inaugural award collectively employ 185 in Indiana and in total finished 2008 with more than \$750,000 in increased sales.

"These awards showcase businesses from a wide range of industries representing all regions of Indiana, not just major metropolitan areas," said Jeff Heinzmann, IEDC's state director of the Indiana Small Business Development Centers. "From Chesterton to Osgood, small businesses continue to create new jobs even amid a global recession."

The U.S. Small Business Administration estimates there are 26 million small businesses in the United States that employ more than half of the country's private workforce.

"Large companies creating hundreds of new jobs make headlines, but it's the hard work and determination of Indiana's small businesses that continue to drive Indiana's economic growth". – Governor Mitch Daniels

South Bend Award Recipient

Integrity Investigation, Inc., - Private investigation firm based in South Bend. The agency was honored in the category of established businesses.