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Fifty Flourishing Women Entrepreneurs Honored at Georgia Aquarium for Making a Big Business Growth Splash

Article

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The Women Presidents' Organization and American Express OPEN Name Top 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies

ATLANTA-- (BUSINESS WIRE) -- April 26, 2012--

The Women Presidents' Organization (WPO), in partnership with American Express OPEN, the small business division of American Express, today released the fifth ranking of the 50 Fastest Growing Women-Owned/led companies in North America. The Top 50 generated a combined \$4 billion in 2011 revenues (mean of \$80.1 million) and collectively employed 26,883 in 2011 (projected 34,550 employees in 2012).

BrightStar, a home healthcare and medical staffing company based in Illinois, has taken the top spot for a second consecutive year. Shelly Sun, president and chief executive officer, who plans to take her business public, saw her 10-year-old company's revenue double in two years from \$51,732,716 in 2009 to \$156,812,048 in 2011.

Cenergy International Services, LLC, a Texas-based energy personnel solutions provider, rose from 25(th) spot on the list last year to second place this year. The company has nearly doubled its revenues (\$62,500,000 in 2009 to \$165,000,000 in 2011) and employment (434 in 2009, 938 in 2011 and 1,100 projected for December 2012).

"This year's Top 50 list is our most diverse ranking ever, with 20 states represented and companies ranging from precious metal dealers to food service distributors," said Marsha Firestone, Ph. D., president and founder of the WPO. "We are once again pleased to partner with American Express OPEN in paying tribute to these influential women and recognizing their achievements."

In order to help the Top 50 continue to seize even more business opportunities, each of the honored business owners will be offered a \$500 American Express gift card and potential to be featured on OPENForum.com.

"According to our recent State of Women-Owned Businesses report, women-owned enterprises continue to grow and account for 29% of all companies in the United States," said Sarah Forger, manager of customer advocacy at American Express OPEN. "We are thrilled to showcase the successes of our fifty honorees in order to inspire other women to build high-growth businesses."

All eligible companies were ranked according to a sales growth formula that combines percentage and absolute growth. From this list, the 50 Fastest were selected. To be qualified for the ranking, businesses are required to be privately held, woman-owned/led companies in the U.S. or Canada and have reached revenue of at least \$500,000 by the first week of 2007 and \$2 million in 2011.

More about the 2012 Top 50:

-- The average revenue grew from \$31.5 million in 2007 to \$80.1 million in 2011

-- Founded the Business: 90%

-- Average age: 49

-- Average Number of Projected 2012 Employees: 691

-- Number of businesses owned by women of color: 14

All 50 companies will be honored at a special event hosted by American Express OPEN at the 2012 WPO Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on April 26, 2012. The awards reception will take place from 6:30 -- 9:45PM at the Georgia Aquarium.

The 2012 Top 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies are:

1	Shelly Sun	BrightStar Care	Gurnee, IL
2	June Ressler	Cenergy International Services, LLC	Houston, TX
3	Rhonda Shear	Shear Enterprises	St. Pete FL
4	Sue Bhatia	Rose International, Inc.	Chesterfield, MO
5	Kathy Mills	Strategic Communications	Louisville, KY

6	Carolyn Doerle	Doerle Food Services, LLC	Broussard, LA
7	Ranjini Poddar	Artech Information Systems LLC	Cedar Knolls, NJ
8	Maria Popo	Ubee Interactive, Inc.	Englewood, CO
9	Claudine George	ICONMA LLC	Troy, MI
10	Nicole Geller	GCS, Inc.	McLean, VA
11	Liz Elting	TransPerfect	New York, NY
12	Pamela O'Rourke	ICON Information Consultants LP	Houston TX
13	Lori Blaker	TTi Global	Rochester Hills, MI
14	Jennifer Schoenhofer	Axis Teknologies	Sandy Springs, GA
15	Therese Tucker	BlackLine Systems	Los Angeles, CA
16	Joan Bialek	Bialek Environments	Rockville, MD
17	Sue Butler, Tracy Till	Butler/Till Media	Rochester, NY
18	Elaine Osgood	Atlas Travel International	Milford, MA
19	Anita Emoff	Boost Technologies, LLC dba Boost Rewards	Dayton, OH
20	Jennifer Smith	Innovative Office Solutions LLC	Burnsville, MN
21	Liz McKinley	Pinnacle Petroleum, Inc.	Huntington Beach, CA
22	Anna Skvirskaya	US Gold Buyers, Inc.	New York, NY
23	Roz Alford, Nancy Williams	ASAP Solutions Group, LLC	Norcross, GA
24	Nancy McFarlane	MedPro Rx Inc.	Raleigh, NC
25	Rachna Agarwal	Expedien, Inc.	Houston, TX
26	Elise S. Mitchell	Mitchell Communications Group, Inc.	Fayetteville, AR
27	Darlene Panzitta	DSP Clinical	Parsippany, NJ
28	Jill S. Becker	Cambridge NanoTech	Cambridge, MA
29	Bonnie Laiderman	Veterans Home Care	St. Louis, MO
30	Cynthia J. Pasky	Strategic Staffing Solutions Inc.	Detroit, MI
31	Nina Vaca-Humrichouse	Pinnacle Technical Resources, Inc.	Dallas, TX
32	Jessica Firestone	Tempest Telecom Solutions LLC	Santa Barbara, CA
33	Natalie Davis-Runyan, Valerie Freeman, Jennifer Furst	ANSERTEAM, LLC	Dallas, TX
34	Rebecca Cenni	Atrium Staffing	New York, NY
35	Sonu Ratra, Amar Panchal,	Akraya, Inc.	Sunnyvale, CA
36	Anjali Ramakumaran	Ampcus Inc.	Chantilly, VA
37	Laurie DeJong	LDJ Productions	New York, NY
38	Amy Gonzales, Kelly Caldwell	AK ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	West Trenton, NJ
39	JoAnne LaBounty	Spartanburg Meat Processing Co., Inc.	Spartanburg, SC
40	Marie Seipenko	Preferred Solutions, Inc.	Northville, MI
41	Gail Whittenberger	Tyndale Company, Inc.	Pipersville, PA
42	Sandra Camponogara	InterConnect USA	Ridgefield, NJ
43	Carole Borden	C.B. Transportation, Inc.	Chester Springs, PA
44	Kara Trott	Quantum Health Inc.	Columbus, OH
45	Mary Lawlor, Marie E. Dillon	Thomas Stanley Associates LLC	Ballston Spa, NY
46	Cheryl Biron	One Horn Transportation	Wayne, NJ
47	Allison Judge	Transformhealthrx	Statesboro, GA
48	Shari Dingle Sandifer	Avant Healthcare Professionals	Casselberry, FL
49	Keeli Jernigan	Trans-Expedite Inc.	El Paso, TX
50	Kelly Bain	Delta Solutions & Strategies, LLC	Colorado Springs, CO

About the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO)

The WPO is the premier peer advisory organization connecting women who own multi-million dollar companies. In monthly meetings across four continents (North America, South America, Europe, and Africa) chapters of 20 women presidents -- from diverse industries-- invest time and energy in themselves and their businesses to drive their corporations to the next level. Local WPO chapters are coordinated by a professional facilitator and meet monthly to share business expertise and experience in a confidential setting. For more information, call 212-688-4114 or visit www.womenpresidentsorg.com.

About American Express OPEN(R)

American Express OPEN is the leading payment card issuer for small businesses in the United States and supports business owners with products and services to help them run and grow their businesses. This includes business charge and credit cards that deliver purchasing power, flexibility, rewards, savings on business services from an expanded lineup of partners and online tools and services designed to help improve profitability. Learn more at www.OPEN.com and connect with us at openforum.com and twitter.com/openforum.

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