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GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HONOR OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

The big ideas and great accomplishments of small business leaders will be recognized at the 18th Annual Small Business Excellence Awards of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce on Friday, November 17, 6 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia. At the dinner-dance, eight businesspersons in the Philadelphia region will be honored for their achievements, community activity and overall excellence in their respective industries.

Kim Marchner, Vice President of UPS's small business segment, will serve as master of ceremonies, as awards are presented for:

- **Retailers of the Year:** Gerald Robbins, CEO, and Ronald Robbins, President, Robbins Diamonds
- **Manufacturer of the Year:** Alfred Basilicato, CEO, Numonics Corp.
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year:** Keith Midgette Scriven, Owner, Scriven Signature Jewelry and Metalworks
- **Innovative Business of the Year:** Kirk E. Watkins, CEO, e-Duction, Inc.
- **Customer Service Excellence:** Margit Novack, President, Moving Solutions
- **Small Business Person of the Year:** Linda Rosanio, CEO, The STAR Group
- **Emerging Business of the Year:** Denise Devine, Founder and CEO, Devine Foods

"This year's honorees at the Small Business Excellence Awards have set new standards and demonstrated a high level of achievement," said Charles P. Pizzi, President of the Chamber. "The men and women being honored are most deserving. Their successes contribute to the strength of our regional economy. They are assets to their communities and make life a little better for all of us in the region."

The vision and determination of the award-winners is evident in their stories. For some, like Keith Midgette Scriven, becoming the first African-American brand-name jeweler was a childhood dream. For others, such as Jerry and Ron Robbins, it was carrying on a family legacy. From her kitchen table, Lisa Rosanio and her associates transformed their idea into one of the region's fastest growing companies.

Recognizing that it must reinvent itself after 20 years, Numonics Corp. moved away from traditional manufacturing and became a market leader. Kirk Watkins built upon a secession of entrepreneurial ideas to create e-Deduction, a payroll deduction solution.

Moving Solutions identified a consumer need and met that need by helping clients deal with their

emotions during relocation. Denise Devine's forward thinking lead to the development of creative natural food and pharmaceutical products from Devine Foods.

The seven winners were chosen from among 50 nominees from throughout the Philadelphia region. The awards are presented to businesses with less than 100 employees. Winners are chosen by the Small Business Excellence Awards Committee, which consider a nominee's achievements, vitality, creativity, stability and impact. The winners are also judged on non-revenue generating qualities such as their civic involvement and responsibility, mentoring, employee recognition and customer service.

The Small Business Excellence Awards are presented by United Parcel Service and sponsored by Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, Sovereign Bank, Hudson United Bank, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, PNC Bank, Blank Rome Comisky and McCauley, LLP and Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center.

The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is committed to its members' growth and prosperity. It is an advocate for business and is committed to helping members compete regionally and globally by providing them with outstanding programs, benefits and services.

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