

Message from the Governor



Congratulations to this year's new class of Companies to Watch. The Hoosier state relies on companies like these to bring innovation to the marketplace – one of the most important aspects of our continued economic prosperity and growth. These companies embody the effort to create the cutting-edge products, services and, ultimately, the jobs of tomorrow that will keep Indiana competitive in the 21st century.

Taking a new idea and transforming it into a successful business involves more than just creative vision and talent. It requires a level of faith and commitment that only a few possess. We applaud these companies for following through on a venture that started out as a dream and for making that dream a reality through vision and hard work.

We celebrate their achievements and acknowledge the vital role these companies serve in shaping a brighter future not only for this generation, but also for the next generation of Hoosiers. They are creating solutions to improve our quality of life and inspiring the next generation of thinkers, innovators and builders to do the same.

Our administration is focused on ensuring the success of these companies and others like them by continually improving our state's cost structure and regulatory environment. We are determined to make Indiana known everywhere as the state that works for business. Together we are building an even stronger Indiana, and with one of the top business environments in the country, our best work is yet to come.

On behalf of the state of Indiana and its citizens, we offer our continued gratitude and respect to these companies that are shaping the future of our state.

Mike Pence, Governor, State of Indiana

Helping Second-stagers Gain Visibility

Nearly 90% of the companies selected for the 2013 Indiana Companies to Watch award were nominated by a peer, service provider or entrepreneur support organization. What does this tell us?

Second-stage entrepreneurs are typically so busy trying to expand their markets and refine their competitive edge, they may not know about opportunities such as the Companies to Watch awards program. With a little help from local advocates these companies gain visibility, which enables the greater statewide community to not only celebrate their success, but also serve them during their crucial growth phase.

We hope that being selected as a Companies to Watch honoree will help these second-stage entrepreneurs gain even more attention. We encourage the companies to use the award in their marketing, and many past winners have done so with great results. We also want entrepreneurship advocates to continue to support second-stagers in their communities – to provide them with needed services, tell and retell their success stories and work with other groups to provide a stronger environment for them.

In fact, one of the phrases we've been using to describe Companies to Watch is "A new view of success. Together." That's because programs such as Companies to Watch unite a diverse group of community interests. Even if these groups have different missions among themselves, when it comes to Companies to Watch, everyone works together to achieve a common goal of helping second-stagers.

By doing so, these groups shine a spotlight on the entrepreneurs who are writing a new recipe for regional prosperity. They may represent different industries and geographic locations, but common to all of them is that they are product innovators with state, national and global impact. As job creators and corporate citizens, their community giveback is a critical contribution that can be accomplished by few others.

Congratulations to the 2013 class of Indiana Companies to Watch! And a shout-out to the entrepreneurship advocates who support them. As a team, you truly are exceptional!



Photo by John Reilly Photography

Darlene Lowe, CEO and chairman, Edward Lowe Foundation