



**2010 Pinnacle Business Awards, Presented by BB&T
Nomination Form**

Please review the award descriptions on the back of this form. The nomination deadline is February 19, 2010. All nominated companies/individuals will receive an application that must be filled out and submitted to the Chamber by 5:00 p.m. on March 5. An independent committee will review all applications and select the finalists/winners.

Award Categories (check one – descriptions on back):

- Young Entrepreneur
- Small Business Excellence
- Minority-Owned Business Excellence
- Women-Owned Business Excellence
- Business Excellence
- Innovator
- Impact

Nominator Profile

Your Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Nominee Profile

Nominee Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

Return to:
 Lori Fuller
 Knoxville Chamber
 17 Market Square, #201
 Knoxville, TN 37902
 Phone: (865) 637-4550
 Fax: (865) 523-2071
 Email: lfuller@knoxvillechamber.com

2010 Pinnacle Business Award Descriptions

Impact Award

This award will be presented to an East Tennessee for-profit business that displays a commitment to making East Tennessee a better place to live through the development and support of a community project or program. The Impact Award winner should be able to demonstrate the ability to improve community conditions that make a significant contribution or impact on our region. Such contributions might include: improving education, improving healthcare, pursuing environmental excellence, performing community service, and influencing other organizations to partner for these purposes.

Innovator Award

This award will be given to an East Tennessee business that has developed a new technology, innovative product or service or applied a business process or service in an innovative way. The winner will be able to quantify its growth and provide a detailed explanation of the new product, service, process or system. Nominee should provide a description of implementing innovative solutions to achieve operational efficiency and business results.

Minority-Owned Business Excellence Award

This award will be presented to a successful East Tennessee minority-owned business which is independently-owned, operated and controlled by minority group members. Minority group members are defined as U.S. citizens who are Asian, Black, Hispanic or Native American. Ownership by minority individuals means the business is at least 51 percent owned by such individuals and the management and daily operations are controlled by those minority group members.

Woman-Owned Business Excellence Award

This award will be presented to a successful East Tennessee woman-owned business which is independently-owned, operated and controlled by a female or females. The enterprise must be at least 51 percent owned by one or more women and its management and daily business operations must be controlled by one or more women.

Small Business Excellence Award

This award will be presented to an East Tennessee small business that has consistently grown its workforce and revenue. Nominees should be businesses started in the Knoxville region and have 50 employees or less company-wide. The winner will be able to demonstrate its ability to overcome obstacles including access to capital, operational efficiency, control of expenses, customer loyalty and distribution of products or services and should provide a historical index of growth in revenues and workforce.

Business Excellence Award

Awarded to a company headquartered in East Tennessee or a company with a significant presence in East Tennessee, that has shown remarkable profitability, growth and stability. Nominees must be recognized regionally, nationally and/or internationally in their respective business sector, while demonstrating leadership in the sector as well. Nominated companies should have made significant investments in facilities and employees. There will be two winners in this category, one for companies with 51-150 employees company-wide and another for companies with 151+ employees company-wide.

Young Entrepreneur Award

This award will be presented to a young professional, 40 years of age or younger as of April 30, 2010, who lives and works in East Tennessee and has achieved success while overcoming obstacles, to become one of tomorrow's top business leaders. The winner will have started or is at risk in ownership in their business. They will have used technology or new business practices to move a company from early growth to some maturity.