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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

An Issue Full of Honors and Achievements

Innovation and entrepreneurship are the key driving forces of today's new economy. We embrace the future with cautious optimism and focus on even greater achievements in the months ahead.

This issue's cover story honors those whose contributions are making a difference in the region and impacting our world. This year's inductees to the "Society of Innovators" include Tom Sourlis, Mortar Net, whose simple idea transformed masonry construction. Scott Bening, who was a chemist, is now a CEO who has taken his company to global proportions—most recently developing a water-soluble film that can hold liquid. Ernest Talarico Jr., Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine Northwest, created the International Human Cadaver Prosection Program, giving donors identity and respect. Howard Cohen, Ph.D., chancellor for Purdue University Calumet, created the student experiential learning program. The Gerald I. Lamkin Award for Outstanding Achievement honored two recipients, Ralph Braun, Braun Corp. in Winamac, the largest supplier of wheelchair-accessible vans; and the late Robert Forney, founder of the Global Foodbanking Network, Michigan City. The prestigious Chanute Prize went to Dr. Robert Rivers of the Center for Science & Technology Education at Purdue Calumet, for joining with the U.S. Navy to motivate student interest in science and math with "Exploration Earth: Mission Ocean." Also honored with the Chanute were John and Peggy Moore, Dage-MTI, for taking the risk of transforming a struggling camera business into a provider of lifesaving high-tech camera equipment for medical purposes. Congratulations to all of this year's inductees!

And there are more award winners to recognize in this issue, including the 2010 Companies to Watch recipients

in the region. They include Alliance LLC of Valparaiso, Communication Company of South Bend and Inovateus Solar, also based in South Bend. Our first annual leading CEOs and CFOs were nominated online by our enthusiastic readers. We were delighted with the response. Not in this issue, but our cover story scheduled for 2011, we want to recognize our editor, Rick Richards, for being honored with the "Journalist of The Year" E-day award presented by the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center.

College interns are for hire and good for business. We explore the advantages of hiring an intern to provide real-world work experience to a soon-to-be graduate. But there is some new competition that I find most intriguing. Interns for hire include those who have gone back to school for advanced degrees. They bring job skills and past work experience to the internship program.

We have more great stories in this issue, including grants that were awarded to area universities for research, hospitals that continue to grow and reach out to the communities, and much more.

Finally we are happy to announce that in 2011 we will be celebrating 20 years of publishing this magazine in Northwest Indiana. It started as an economic-development publication and has evolved to become one of the leading business magazines in the region. I want to thank all our readers, our advertisers, editorial committee, business advisers and magazine staff for making this a truly remarkable achievement. Enjoy our current issue! ■



Glee Renick-May