

2001 Entrepreneur of the Year

Winners

John D. Bell
Premier Health Care
Management Inc.

Mark Campbell
StoneAge.com

Larry Gaynor
The Nailco Group

John "Jack" Krasula
Decision Consultants Inc.

Bhushan Kulkarni
GDI Infotech Inc.

Rufus "Bud" H. Reitzel
Asset Acceptance Corp.

Robin Risser
Picometrix Inc.

Timothy C. Spiro
Premier Health Care
Management Inc.

Sidney Taylor
SET steel Inc.

Steven L. Williamson
Picometrix Inc.

The Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year program has honored successful entrepreneurs since 1989. The award recognizes companies based on their operating growth during a minimum period of two years and on growth in employees, earnings and revenue. Entrepreneurs also are judged on their social and community efforts.

Ernst & Young is the founder and producer of the Entrepreneur of the Year award. The program is nationally sponsored by *USA Today*, CNN, the Nasdaq Stock Market and the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Michigan sponsors are Bowne of Detroit, Comerica Bank, *Crain's Detroit Business*, Dykema Gossett P.L.L.C., Marsh USA Inc. and WJR AM 760.

Judges

George Berry
Nasdaq Stock Market Inc.

Hugo Braun
North Coast
Technology Investors L.P.

Richard Cook
X-Rite Inc.

Mort Crim
Mort Crim Communications

Chris Holman
Greater Lansing Business Monthly

James McLean
Meijer Inc.

Cynthia Pasky
Strategic Staffing Solutions Inc.

Christopher Rizik
Ardesta L.L.C.

Robert Sligh
Sligh Furniture Co.

David Sowerby
Loomis Sayles & Co. L.P.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR: WINNERS AND FINALISTS

FINALISTS: E-BUSINESS

J R Berry, CEO

Innovative IT Solutions Inc. Okemos

J R Berry never intended to pursue information technology as a career but after graduating from the U.S. Army's Reserve Officer Training Corps, with a specialty in computer technology, he left his job, obtained venture capital and in 1999 started Innovative IT Solutions.

Innovative IT specializes in e-commerce for insurance agencies, brokers and state insurance regulatory agencies. It has 74 employees and posted revenue of \$4.2 million last year.

Jacques Habra, CEO

Web Elite Inc., Ann Arbor

While a student at the University of Michigan, Habra was UM's lead programmer for its Web site for class registration and transcript records.

Web Elite, an Internet development and consulting company, caters to mid-size and large corporations, including **General Motors Corp.**, **Sun Microsystems Inc.** and **Hewlett Packard Co.** The privately held company has regional offices in New York City and San Francisco outside its headquarters in Ann Arbor.

Jay Harrison, chief technology officer

Internet Operations Center, Southfield

Jay Harrison co-founded Internet Operations Center in 1996 and has expanded its operations to include Web development, computer systems and security development and other computer consulting activities. About 100 employees work for the company.

One obstacle the company overcame was measuring up to competitors with extremely low price quotes, Harrison said. But when many of the Internet companies could not meet their "ridiculously" low price quotes and would exceed their budgets, customers turned to Internet Operations for their projects, he said.