

Nominations Now Open for the 2019 Business Excellence Awards

Every year, Think Dutchess recognizes the most successful businesses in Dutchess County at the ***Business Excellence Awards***. Nominations (including self-nominations) are now open for the businesses and nonprofit organizations to be honored at the *2019 Business Excellence Awards*. These awards bring together the entire business community to celebrate innovation, service and distinction. Join us ***Thursday, October 24th, at 5:30pm at The Grandview*** in Poughkeepsie.

Businesses large and small will have the opportunity to gain local recognition and share their achievements at the county's largest business event. If you know a business or nonprofit organization with an earned reputation for excellence and contribution to Dutchess County and its economic development we urge you to nominate and share this form.

The "go-to business event," the ***Business Excellence Awards***, draw more than 400 of the community's most esteemed business leaders, government officials, and local influencers together in one location to network and applaud the efforts of the businesses leading the county's economic development. Award sponsors, winners and attendees gain access to generous media coverage, networking opportunities and a grand presentation with entertainment and dessert provided.

TO MAKE A NOMINATION:

Businesses, Associates, and Colleagues may nominate a candidate in the following categories:

- **Innovator of the Year**
- **Nonprofit of the Year**
- **Small Business of the Year**
- **Large Business of the Year**

Criteria for entry can be found on the nomination forms and must be returned to Think Dutchess by July 26, 2019. Selections will be made by a judging panel of local business professionals. For questions, please contact Rachel Welch at: 845.463.5400 or rachel@thinkdutchess.com.

INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

The Innovator of the Year Award recognizes the organizations and people who bring new ideas to life. The award is open to any Dutchess County organization, public or private, irrespective of size or industry sector, which has developed and brought to market a unique product or service which advances and adds value to the local job market, industry and society as a whole.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Innovation Process
- Value to industry/society
- Demonstrated growth process
- Potential for growth

RULES FOR NOMINATIONS:

- Entry forms may be found at thinkdutchess.com
- Please complete entry forms electronically as an interactive .pdf
- Self-Nominations will be accepted.
- Submit completed .pdf at thinkdutchess.com/ or to rachel@thinkdutchess.com with the subject “BEA Nomination.”
- Judges decisions will be final and no correspondence will follow submissions.



2019 Business Excellence Awards Innovator of the Year Award Entry Form

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Business Name:

Contact Name:

Title:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Business Website:

Individual/Business Nominating (if different from above):

COMPANY INFORMATION:

Where is the company headquartered?

How many year has the company been in business?

Does the company sell outside of Dutchess County?

If yes to the above, please describe the company's market area. (regional, national, international)

INNOVATION PROCESS: Please describe the idea and processes that led to the innovation.

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION (200 WORD MAX): Please provide a brief description of the business including: product/service offering, size, years in business.

VALUE AND IMPACT: Please explain how the business has created value to the industry or community served and list the features and benefits of the innovation. Describe the social/economic impact of the innovation (including explanation of disruptive technology, social impact, or job/ potential job creation.)

FUTURE GROWTH: Please describe the current status of the product or service and future growth potential. List any plans to improve processes or grow the business.

CHALLENGES: Please describe any challenges the business has faced and how it has overcome these obstacles.

IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY THE BUSINESS SHOULD WIN THE INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD?

HAS THE BUSINESS BEEN FORMALLY RECOGNIZED, RECEIVED AWARDS OR RECOGNITION BY THINK DUTCHESS OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION IN THE PAST?

FAQ's

Q: *Can I nominate myself?*

A: **Yes!** Self-nominations will be accepted and encouraged!

Q: *Do I have to work for the business that I nominate?*

A: **No.** Nominations will be accepted in the form of self-nominations from the business owner or chief officer, employees of the business and/or community members. Please try to submit as much known business information as possible to increase odds of being selected.

Q: **Can I enter more than one Award Category?**

A: **Yes.** As long as the criteria for judging are met within each category (ie. size, creation of innovative product or service, or nonprofit status) businesses may apply to more than one category.

Q: **When is the deadline to enter?**

A: All completed nominations must be submitted to rachel@thinkdutchess.com by **July 31, 2018 by 11:59pm**. No entries will be considered after this deadline.

Q: *How do I submit my entry?*

A: Please download and complete the entry form found at:

www.thinkdutchess.com/2019-BEA-nomination-forms/.

Once completed and saved as a .pdf file, email the nomination form to rachel@thinkdutchess.com.

Entry forms can also be mailed to:

Think Dutchess Alliance for Business:

3 Neptune Road

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Attn. Rachel Welch

Q: *Will I receive confirmation of my entry?*

A: No. Correspondence with entry will not be entered. Please be sure to submit a completed entry form.

Q: *When will the winners be announced?*

A: Winners will be notified by mid-September. Additional media coverage will be announced on Think Dutchess' Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter Accounts.

Q: I would like my business to sponsor an award or the event. Where can I find sponsorship information?

A: Sponsorship information can be found at thinkdutchess.com/sponsorship.