**Martin County Business Award Descriptions and Previous Winners**

**The Business Excellence Award** *(formerly Business of the Year)*

Honors a long-established Martin County company that, year over year, has had a significant positive and measurable impact on the local economy. They are routinely recognized in their industry as innovators and thought leaders and are actively engaged in the Martin County business community.

 **Previous honorees:***Pursuit Aerospace (2024),**International Training (2023), Bluestream Fiber (2022); Sunshine Land Design (2021); Cleveland Clinic Martin Health (2020); O’Donnell Impact Windows & Storm Protection (2019); General Micro Systems (2017); TurboCombustors Technology (2013, 2008); American Energy Innovations (2011); Florida Power & Light (2009); Old Cell Phone Company (2010)*

**Company to Watch**

Honors a newer addition to the Martin County business community or one that has undergone significant business transformation. Entrepreneurial in spirit, introducing new technologies or innovations, and creating solutions for problems most of us are unaware of. They are blazing new trails within their industry while providing the County with new economic opportunities.

**Previous honorees:** *Grind Hard Ammo (2024*),ADDiTEC (2023) and Willis Custom Yachts (2022).

**Headquarters of the Year**

Honors a company whose Martin County location serves the managerial and administrative center of the organization. Proudly calling Martin County its business home, it has continuously made significant economic and workforce contributions to the local community.

**Previous honorees**: *Paradise Air Fresh (2024),* Awareness Technologies (2023), *Team IP (2022); Seacoast Bank (2021); Visiting Nurse Association (2020); Armellini (2019); HOG Technologies (2018) and Liberator Medical Supply (2012).*

**Manufacturer of the Year**

This award recognizes a local manufacturer for its high manufacturing standards, often exceeding industry standards. The manufacturer is dedicated to best practices and innovative processes, developing its workforce, growing its business, and becoming a leader in its industry and the Martin County business community.

**Previous honorees:***Value Tool & Engineering (20024),**Pace Machine and Tool (2023) and WMR Competitive Products (2022).*

**Entrepreneur of the Year**

Unbound by ambition and unstoppable, this award recognizes a Martin County entrepreneur for their ingenuity, courage, and entrepreneurial spirit. Whether finding and innovating new solutions or reimagining existing ones, this award celebrates the individual who bootstrapped their business from inception to success. \*

**Previous honorees** *Pete Morello Sr, CIS Security Solutions (2024),* Eddie Kolos, H2O (2023); John Justak, *AGTI (2022);**Brian O’Connor, AirBurners (2021); Eric Kiehn, C&W Technologies (2020); Scott Fay, TCI Rood (2019); JAR Zero Waste Shop (2018); Skin Serenity Spa (2017); Bausch Enterprises (2014); STS Aviation Group (2013); H2Grown (2012); Custom Agronomics (2011); Level 3 Inspection LLC (2010); Systems One (2009); Luxurytrips.com (2008).*

**Youth Entrepreneur of the Year**

Same as above, but for individuals 18 years of age or younger. \*

**Previous honorees**: *Parker Smith, Smith Marine Services (2024), Jaxon McIntyre and Matthew Elder, Bright Delight Windows (2023) and Keegan Nunes, and KSoap (2022).*

**Newcomer of the Year**

Recognizing a company that moved to or relocated to Martin County in the past two years and, in doing so, has added to the existing base of businesses, bringing business diversity, new skills, and workforce opportunities while adding vibrancy to the local economy.

**Previous honorees***: TrenchBadger (2024), Containing Luxury (2023); Daher (2022); Comfort Suites Stuart-Hutchinson Island (2021); The Roofing General (2020); Dassault Aircraft Services (2019); Burr Yacht Sales (2017); Coral Shores (2016); Fresh Shrimp (2015); Ocean Masters (2014); Tattoo Yachts (2013); Extreme Speed Motorsports (2010); Viesel (2009); Stephen Bonanno Sandals (2009); Systems One (2009); Room It Up (2008) and Continental Shelf Inc. (2008).*

**Charlene Hoag Leadership Award**

Recognizes an individual whose characteristics include devotion to family, vocation, and servant leadership to the community. They advocate for the local economy's continuous improvement, ensuring it is thriving, sustainable, and resilient for everyone and many generations. \*

**Previous honorees**: *Suzy Hutcheson (2024), Tom and Sue Whittington (2023);* *Kelly Johnson (2022); Janice Norman (2021); Debra Duvall (2020); Carolyn Davi (2019); Bill West (2018); Ted Astolfi (2017); Mark Robitaille (2016); The Mader Family (2015); Donna Carman (2014); Dr. Edwin R. Massey (2013); Taryn Kryzda (2012); David-Brian-Kevin Powers (2011); Nick Blount (2010); Joseph Catrambone (2009); Evans Crary (2008); Larry Buchanan (2007); Ken Norman (2006); Elmira Gainey (2005); Senator Ken Pruitt (2004); and Barbara Essenwine (2007).*