'Powering Up' at the 2006 Business Conference & Expo

Motivational speaker Kathleen Kendall brought the crowd to its feet during the opening session and breakfast at the Chamber's Business Conference & Expo, held at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center on May 23.

The San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce was pleased to partner with the City of San Jose for the 7th Annual Business Conference and Expo. This year's Expo, Power Up, was held on Tuesday, May 23, and featured a variety of activities.

Kathleen Kendall kicked off the day long festivities at the Opening Session and breakfast sponsored by the Cox Group and Bay Area Renovations. We found prepared everyone for the day ahead with her insight and humor. Immediately following Kendall's motivational keynote, breaks presented by Southwest Health Images, including 8 breakout sessions that year's conference focused on marketing and business development.

The Cornerstone (BBB) Awards then a grand day was entertained by Will Durst, America's premier political satirist. Presenting Sponsor Silicon Valley San Jose Business Journal's Publisher and CEO, Hatsuo Fujita and Cornerstone's Executive Vice President, Small Business, Peggy Bradshaw received the Chamber President and CEO, Pat Dando, in recognizing deserving businesses who were awarded with the 2006 (BBB) Excellence in Business Awards. This year's recipients for the Building Our Community Awards were Work Outside, Inc. and Sentinel Retail Properties. The Chamber Champion Award was presented to Windermere Properties of Silicon Valley. The Hook Industry Award for Business Excellence was given to E Fernando and (MR) Sports. And Special Recognition of Excellence in Business was presented to Orchard Supply Hardware and J.C. McDonald Company, Inc.

The Expo had more than 100 exhibitors who displayed and exhibited their products and services, the ability for exhibitors to sell their products on the floor from into a remarkable addition this year. Highlights of the trade show included: Sponsor the video, San Jose Good Humor, Cupcake the Clown, along with their sweet ice cream, Italian Sherbet Cafe and of course our mascots of the Expo Building.

Thank you to all of the 2006 exhibitors, sponsors, vendors and attendees for supporting the Chamber and the Annual Business Conference and Expo. And special thank you to Italian artist Tonny who decorated the (BBB) Lounge and the stage in the Exhibit Hall.

Laura Miller with the San Jose Giants, poses with the team mascot, "El Diablo."

Amy Black with AMB Designs, was awarded "Small Business, but LARGE INNOVATION" for her brilliant decorated booth in the Expo.

Rajesh Singh with Cold Stone Creamery (on right) took home the prize for "Best Tasting Booth."

Eric Bedford (second from right) with Windermere Silicon Valley Properties, received the Chamber Champion Award during the (BBB).

Bob Lynch of CMO received one of the Special Recognition Excellence in Business Awards from Chamber President & CEO Pat Dando.

Political satirist Will Durst were again kept the audience crowd entertained following the (BBB) Awards.

Nikita Bella and San Jose Grand Prix won the prize for the "best in show" booth at the Expo. The Grand Prix takes place in downtown San Jose July 28, 29 and 30.

The (BBB). At left, flanked by Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal Publisher Hatsuo Fujita and Chamber President & CEO Pat Dando and Peggy Bradshaw from Cornerstone Rich Milner with (MR) Sports received the Hook Industry Award for Small Business. At right, David Nero of E Fernando also received the Hook Industry Award.

At left, the Inaugural Building Our Community Award went to Work Outside, Inc. Chris Dandridge, second from left, and Sentinel Retail Properties Mark Crowley, second from right. Mark Gover with the Small Business Administration (on the right) was also on hand to present the awards.

Golden Bear Federal Credit Union captured the prize for "Best Action Booth" with their Pachinko Machine. Pictured from left: Amy Nguyen, Sara Hale and Edward Wong.

Jim McDonald of J.C. McDonald also received the Special Recognition Excellence in Business Award.

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