



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Announces 2020 Business Awards Winners and Sponsors

NIH, World Central Kitchen, CuriosityStream Among this Year's Honorees

ROCKVILLE, MD: On Thursday, October 29, 2020, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) will broadcast its first ever 2020 Business Awards Premiere. This virtual event will celebrate the best of Montgomery County's business community, with organizations and leaders receiving recognition from a variety of industries. The Business Awards Premiere will broadcast on social media at 4:00 p.m. ET.

This year's honorees are:

- U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), *Accepted by Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. (Director, NIH) and Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. (Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH)*
- World Central Kitchen, *Accepted by José Andrés, Founder*
- CuriosityStream
- The Emmes Company, LLC
- Gregory Coleman, CEO, Sworkit (Nexercise, Inc.)
- Lisa Renshaw, President, Penn Parking, Inc.
- Edward J. Quinn, Jr., Chairman, TW Perry
- Christine P. Williamson, CPA, PMP, Partner, Government Contracting Industry Practice, CohnReznick LLP
- Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget

Visionary of the Year

The 2020 Visionary of the Year Award goes to the **U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH)**. This award is typically presented during the MCCC Annual Dinner, but due to the global pandemic, the MCCC Board of Directors and the Business Awards Selection Committee made the decision to add this award to the Business Awards program. This award recognizes an individual or an organization for its innovation and tremendous contributions to the County and beyond. During the live broadcast, NIH Director **Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.** and NIAID Director **Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.** will accept the award on behalf of NIH.

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

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“The National Institutes of Health is the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world. As home to NIH’s headquarters in Bethesda and many other NIH facilities, Montgomery County plays a vital role in helping our agency carry out its mission of turning scientific discovery into better health for all. On behalf of NIH and its employees, I sincerely thank the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for recognizing NIH as its 2020 Visionary of the Year,” said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

This award will be presented by **Contemporaries, Inc.**

“Contemporaries is so honored to give this award to the National Institutes of Health,” said **Erin Allen**, President of Contemporaries, Inc. “The importance of their work cannot be overstated. Our firm has provided support services to the doctors, scientists, and staff of the NIH for nearly 30 years. We like to think of our firm as a tiny cog in the wheel that helps the NIH keep our country safe and healthy.”

Corporate Social Responsibility

World Central Kitchen is this year’s Corporate Social Responsibility Award Winner. This award is presented to an individual or company that has demonstrated exemplary business practices, dedicated involvement and unyielding commitment to community service and volunteer programs that enrich the lives of Metro Maryland residents. During the live broadcast, World Central Kitchen Founder **José Andrés** will accept the award on behalf of the organization.

“World Central Kitchen's teams of food first responders and resilience builders believe that food has enormous power to change people's lives for the better,” said **Nate Mook**, CEO, World Central Kitchen. “A comforting plate of food is more than a meal – it’s hope, it's dignity, and it's a sign that someone cares and tomorrow will be better. And when we work to make a community's food systems more resilient, we're uplifting that entire community and its economy. So, to be recognized by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for our work using food to heal and strengthen the communities of Metro-Maryland is truly an honor, and we are deeply grateful.”

This award will be co-presented by **EagleBank** and **Washington Gas**.

“EagleBank is proud to co-sponsor the 2020 Corporate Responsibility Award with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce,” said award co-presenter **Tony Marquez**, EagleBank Senior EVP and President of Commercial Banking. “It is our great honor to present this year’s Award to Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen (WCK). We have been on the journey with José and World Central Kitchen since the beginning, since the founding of the first Think Food Group restaurants, and we have seen the tremendous impact he has made since founding WCK in 2010. For over a decade, we have supported and watched their operations grow along with the impression José and WCK have made on communities across the globe. Being community-builders ourselves, we value our partnership with WCK and our shared commitment to community service that enriches the lives of the residents of Montgomery County and the greater Washington Metro area. We look forward to a fruitful relationship with José and WCK for many more decades to come.”

“We are proud to sponsor the Corporate Social Responsibility award because it recognizes and celebrates the companies and individuals who devote themselves to making our communities better,” said **Blue Jenkins**, Washington Gas President. “No one exemplifies that dedication and commitment this year more than José Andrés, and we are delighted to be present him with this award.”

Emerging Business of the Year

In past years, MCCC's Business Awards Selection Committee annually selected three businesses as Verl Zanders Emerging Business of the Year Finalists. This award is presented to an emerging company on the leading edge of innovation by creating milestones in technology and/or business that has achieved enhanced earnings and contributed to Metro Maryland's reputation as an outstanding place to do business. Previous winners of this award include **Honest Tea**, **Sweetgreen**, **WeddingWire**, and **Hungry Harvest**.

This year, the committee selected **CuriosityStream** as the 2020 Emerging Business of the Year Award Winner.

"It's an honor to be included among all the companies having an impact on the Maryland business community," said **Clint Stinchcomb**, President and CEO of CuriosityStream. "CuriosityStream has become a leader in the streaming revolution and there's never been a more exciting opportunity for growth. We're delighted to continue our mission to share the best factual entertainment with viewers around the globe."

This year's award will be presented by **CohnReznick LLP**.

"CohnReznick has always strived to align itself with best in class businesses," said **Tom Greenawalt, CPA**, Partner, CohnReznick LLP. "Our work with CuriosityStream is a wonderful example of two companies with deep Montgomery County roots, working together. We are proud to call CuriosityStream a client and look forward to their continued growth and very bright future!"

Corporate Achievement

The 2020 Corporate Achievement Award is being awarded to **The Emmes Company, LLC**. This award is presented to an individual or company that demonstrates leadership, innovation, commitment, and good corporate citizenship in Metro Maryland and beyond. The awardee has set consistently high standards for financial performance, sound management, and sustained growth over a period of many years, and has made significant and lasting contributions to the local economy and the community.

"The Corporate Achievement Award is really a tribute to the 800+ employees of Emmes, whose contributions go far beyond public health," said **Anne Lindblad**, Former CEO of Emmes. "Their activism in their communities makes me so proud, and many of the philanthropic activities we support were suggested by members of our team. This is an especially meaningful honor this year, because it marks the year of my retirement after 38 years at Emmes and the opportunity for our new CEO, **Dr. Christine Dingivan**, to start a new chapter of contributions to improving public health, growth, and community engagement."

This year's award is presented by **M&T Bank**.

"M&T Bank is proud to sponsor the Emmes Corporation as this year's Corporate Achievement Award winner," said **Lowell Yoder**, M&T Bank's Group Vice President for the Greater Washington Market. "Over the years, Emmes has set high standards for financial performance, sound management, and sustained growth – while contributing significantly to our community along the way."

Small Business Leader of the Year

The Small Business Leader of the Year is **Gregory Coleman**, CEO, **Sworakit (Nexercise, Inc.)**. This award is presented to a successful small business owner or manager with 500 or fewer employees whose business has experienced substantial growth and whose leadership provided a positive impact on the business community in Metro Maryland.

"It is a true honor to receive this award on behalf of our team," said Gregory Coleman. "We've worked really hard for years to help people live their best lives and are proud of what we have done to help both our customers and students all over the world."

This award will be presented by **CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield**.

"CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is proud to sponsor the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Leader of the Year Award for the tenth consecutive year," said **Kal Attia**, Business Development Consultant, Large Group, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. "Because of our partnership and commitment to small businesses, we are honored to present this outstanding award to Gregory Coleman of Sworkit."

Spirit of Free Enterprise

The 2020 Spirit of Free Enterprise Award Winner is **Lisa Renshaw**, President of **Penn Parking, Inc.** This award is presented to an individual or company that is successful in business, a leader in promoting free enterprise and a competitive business climate and actively involved in making Metro Maryland a great place to live, work, and play.

"Starting and growing the only woman-founded parking management company in U.S. history has been quite an adventure," said Lisa Renshaw. "Thank you to the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for recognizing me and Penn Parking for this award."

This award will be presented by **PNC Bank**.

"As a Main Street Bank, PNC takes great pride in celebrating entrepreneurs who successfully execute on their vision to create jobs and fuel our economy," said PNC Bank Regional President **D. Jermaine Johnson**. "We are delighted to sponsor the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Free Enterprise Award, which this year honors our longtime client, Lisa Renshaw, who has grown Penn Parking from a single parking garage in 1983 to one of the most innovative and well-run parking operators in the DMV market."

Emeritus Business Leader of the Year

Edward J. Quinn, Jr. is the 2020 Emeritus Business Leader of the Year. He currently serves as Chairman and Principal Shareholder for **TW Perry**. This award is presented to an individual approaching or newly retired and has had a substantial impact on the way business is conducted in Metro Maryland and who has shown, through many years of active and continuing service, a true commitment to the Community. This award will be presented by **Trex Company, Inc.**

"As the principal owner of one of the oldest continuously operating companies in Montgomery County, it is an honor and pleasure to receive the 2020 Emeritus Business Leader of the Year Award," said Edward J. Quinn, Jr. "We live and work by the motto 'Quality and Service Always; We Make a Material Difference,' and we are proud the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce recognizes that difference."

Business Partner of the Year

Christine B. Williamson, CPA, PMP, Partner, Government Contracting Industry Practice, **CohnReznick LLP**, is the 2020 Business Partner of the Year. This awardee is nominated annually by the **MCCC GovConNet Council**. The goal of this award is to recognize a business that demonstrates excellence in subcontracting and/or supports small business to accelerate their success, and meets the mission of GovConNet, "to promote the economic impact of the federal government presence and to advocate on behalf of the contracting community for business opportunities."

“It is with extreme gratitude that I accept the nomination for the Business Partner of the Year Award in support of government contracting,” said Christine B. Williamson, CPA, PMP. “I have collaborated with MCCC for many years and it has been very rewarding to work with them to give back to the government contracting community to support contractors and veterans, and it has been equally meaningful to contribute to the local business community to provide guidance amid COVID-19. I look forward to many more years of collaboration between CohnReznick and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.”

This year’s award is sponsored by **PilieroMazza PLLC**.

“Christine has been a valuable member of the GovConNet Council for years,” said **Pamela J. Mazza**, Managing Partner at PilieroMazza PLLC. “Her thought leadership has been invaluable and she is always willing to take time to help structure a position and draft proposed legislation or comments on a rule. She is a solid advocate for the government contracting community, always looking out for the Chamber’s constituency and volunteering to speak with Chamber members or our VIPs to help understand the regulations and make wise business decisions.”

Government Partner of the Year

Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, **U.S. Office of Management and Budget**, is the 2020 Government Partner of the Year. This award recognizes a public partner who supports the mission of GovConNet and is also nominated by the GovConNet Council.

“I am greatly honored to receive the Chamber’s Government Partner of the Year Award and humbled to be part of such a distinguished group of recipients who epitomize the very best in public service,” said Mathew Blum. “I accept this award with great appreciation for the tireless efforts of the Chamber to make government at all levels better and stronger through collaboration and to help our citizens live better lives.”

This year’s award will be presented by **Bloomberg Government**.

“Bloomberg Government is committed to helping contractors do what they do best which is: delivering for the federal government,” said **Donald Thomas**, General Manager and Head of Government Contracting Solutions at Bloomberg Government. “We are committed to bridging the gap between government contractors and the needs of agencies, and Mathew Blum excels in this arena. It is an honor to present Mathew Blum with the Government Partner of the Year Award.”

For a list of previous award winners and to learn more about registration, visit mcccmd.com/businessawards.

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About the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) is a membership organization that accelerates members’ success through effective advocacy, programs, and events. Its membership includes small, medium, and large organizations representing a wide range of industries. For more information, visit www.mcccmd.com.