

Press Release



The United States Senate Productivity and Quality Award Program for Virginia

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12 To Watch Small Businesses Announced at the 29th Annual Virginia Forum for Excellence, September 8, 2011

Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling was present to congratulate the **12 to Watch** small businesses. These organizations were recognized with congratulatory letters from Senators Webb and Warner, and from Governor Bob McDonnell, Commonwealth of Virginia.

The “12 to Watch” is an initiative of the United States Senate Productivity and Quality Award Program for Virginia (Virginia SPQA). The criteria to become one of the twelve considers—among other factors—a small business’s position today relative to high level requirements of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, as articulated through Virginia SPQA’s Discovery Program. Small businesses selected to be one of the twelve are considered to be those poised for positive and sustainable job growth in the Commonwealth. This initiative supports and recognizes their abilities.

The 12 to Watch Small Businesses recognized

American Technology Services, Fairfax, VA
Aromas Specialty Coffee & Gourmet Bakery, Williamsburg and Newport News, VA
The Chief Information Group, Falls Church, VA
GRC Enterprises, Warrenton, VA
Harmonia Holdings Group, Blacksburg, VA
JACER Corp., Fairfax, VA
MicroAutomation, Inc., Centreville, VA
New Horizon Security Services, Manassas, VA
ScienceLogic, Reston, VA
Specialty’s Our Name, Ashland, VA
SteelMaster Buildings, Virginia Beach, VA
Veris Group, Vienna, VA

According to Jo Rohr, Virginia SPQA’s Board Chair, “small businesses are the engine of

job creation – for those small businesses that are ready, Virginia SPQA has created a special effort intended to assist a selected few to prepare for the challenges of growth within the context of our nation’s standard for performance excellence. The 12 receive Criteria for Performance Excellence training, mentoring, and scholarship participation in Virginia SPQA’s Discovery Program. Rohr went on to say “those businesses on the cusp of major growth that are able to address the broader issues associated with the nation’s performance excellence standards have a higher probability of success.”

Organizations assisting in the development and promotion of the “12 to Watch” initiative include the:

- Virginia Department of Business Assistance
- United States Small Business Administration
- National Federation of Independent Business
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia