

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD: Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce members claim two spots as finalists for a \$25,000 prize and recognition as Small Business of the Year

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with MetLife, recently announced 17 finalists of the [2017 Dream Big Small Business of the Year Awards](#) program. Awards finalists have been selected for the Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award and Business Achievement Award categories.

“The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that [Xylo Technologies](#) and [BrandHoot](#) have both been named as finalists for the Community Excellence Award. These businesses made our Chamber the only Chamber in the United States with more than one finalist, and both businesses are the only Minnesota finalists for this award,” said Chamber President Rob Miller.

Finalists for the Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award and the Business Achievement Awards will be entered in to an online ballot for the Community Excellence Award that recognizes a small business that has demonstrated exemplary level of leadership and community engagement to positively impact the quality of life in its community and to service the needs of its customers, employees, and neighbors. Candidates for the Community Excellence Award are selected from the pool of Business Achievement Award semi-finalists. The semi-finalists will be entered into an online ballot in consideration for the award.

Online voting will take place from July 10th through July 31st and will allow the people who know the company best—its customers, employees, and neighbors—to cast a vote for their favorite business. Owners, employees, customers, friends, and family are all welcomed and encouraged to vote. Each business’ score will be combined with its online voting total to reach a final judging score. The online voting tally will account for a third of a business’ final score. 70% of the final score is determined by judges’ evaluation. The small business with the highest final score will be selected as the winner of the Community Excellence Award. Please see the end of this release for instructions on how to vote if needed.

The Dream Big Small Business of the Year winner will receive a \$25,000 cash prize and national recognition at the [2017 Small Business Summit](#). Award winners will be announced at the Dream Big Awards Celebration on Tuesday, September 12th in Washington, D.C.. The awards celebration will take place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel and features an awards presentation with dinner, live entertainment, and dancing. To learn more about the award categories and prizes, visit [the awards](#) page.

“Our community is blessed with great businesses and because of your excellence; this Chamber has consistently had the most finalists for the Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award. Thank you in advance for taking the time to vote to help these members and the Rochester business community, gain much deserved national recognition,” Miller remarked.

The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization representing more than 1,500 businesses throughout Southeast Minnesota. The Chamber provides networking, marketing, public advocacy and educational opportunities to its membership, and works to represent the business community on economic and governmental issues. The Chamber’s mission is “to lead, inform, advocate and advance business interests for members, and to promote a healthy community and a growing economy.” More information can be found at www.rochestermnchamber.com

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HOW TO VOTE

- Please vote by clicking the company name below and following the directions.
[BrandHoot](#) or [Xylo Technologies](#)
- Under the company description on the right hand side of the page, there is a link that says “Vote for this Application.”
- You will then be prompted to create an account with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- After your account is created, you will be asked to confirm your selection.

You are only able to cast one vote. We encourage you to cast your vote for a fellow Chamber member.