

Chamber celebrates the best in business



Northern Ontario Film Studios won the Business Start Up Award on Tuesday night at the 16th annual Bell Business Excellence Awards, organized by the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. NOFS president and CEO David Anselmo, right, speaks with Chris Mercer, Laurentian University's chief of staff, who presented Anselmo with the award. Nine other awards were handed out at the event. Photo by Arron Pickard.

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By: Arron Pickard - Sudbury Northern Life

Catch words like innovative, economic driver and success were uttered loud and often Tuesday night at the Caruso Club.

Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce said those words are more than accurate in describing this year's slate of winner for the 16th annual Bell Business Excellence Awards.

The chamber handed out 10 awards throughout the evening, an event that drew more than 450 people out to the gala occasion. With this year's award winners, more than 100 people or businesses have been singled out as pillars of distinction.

“These are the businesses that strengthen and stimulate Sudbury's economy,” said chamber president and CEO Debbi Nicholson. “When they succeed, the rest of Sudbury benefits.”

Jamie Dewar and Marc Duhamel, general managers of Legend Boats, accepted this year's Company of the Year award.

Michael DiBrina, president of DiBrina Sure Group/Investment Planning Counsel, accepted this year's Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Justin Demers, president of Talevi Welding, accepted this year's Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Marie Rose Dubois, president of B&D Manufacturing, accepted this year's Chair's award.

Dr. Beverly Baxter, veterinarian and owner of Baxter Animal Hospital, accepted this year's Service Excellence award.

Ryan Nesci, owner and president of Nesci's Catering/Tony V's, accepted this year's New Venture award.

David Anselmo, president and CEO of Northern Ontario Film Studios, accepted this year's Business Start Up award.

Paulina Renelli, owner of Sweet Yarns Inc., accepted this year's Small Enterprise award.

Patrick Fantin and John McCall, vice-president technical and senior mechanical engineer, respectively, for Rail-Veyor Technologies Global, accepted this year's Innovation award.

Gunther Gratzner, general manager and chief operating officer of Idylwylde Golf and Country Club, accepted this year's Hospitality award.

This year's judges, Kathryn Barker, Nancy Griffin and Marc Boudreau had a difficult job of choosing from more than 50 nominees, said Nicholson.

“It's gratifying (to receive an award like this),” said Anselmo.

“When I moved back a few years ago, a lot of people thought it was kooky to open and film studio and try to make movies in Sudbury, Ont. What the studio hopefully has shown, is that it doesn't matter what you want to do, if you put your mind to it, put in the work and dedication to accomplishing that goal, then it doesn't matter who you are, where you're from or what you're financial situation is, you will accomplish it – you just have to keep working at it.”

Anselmo said there are many others working alongside him as part of the film studio. They all contributed to the studio's success.

“Making films is a very collaborative effort, and the studio and all of the projects we bring to Northern Ontario are all team efforts,” he said.