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Copper Cactus Awards honor city businesses

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October 22, 2007 12:00 am • By Shelley Shelton Arizona Daily Star

About 650 people filled the ballroom at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa Thursday evening to celebrate the best and brightest of the Tucson business community.

Chuck George of KOLD Channel 13 and Bobby Rich of 94.9 KMXZ served as emcees at the 10th anniversary of the Wells Fargo Copper Cactus Awards — "the oldest and largest small-business recognition event in the region," according to event promoters.

This year, 43 Tucson businesses made the cut as finalists in three categories: Community Service, Business Growth and Best Place to Work. Each category was subdivided according to number of employees. All finalists must be locally owned and operated, for-profit, with 250 or fewer employees and in business for two or more years.

Though several of the eight winners had been nominated in the past, only two had received Copper Cactus Awards.

Winners were Nextrio LLC, Paragon Space Development Corp., Engineering and Environmental Consultants Inc., Elastek, Breault Research Organization, Simpleview Inc., Heinfeld, Meech & Co. PC and Beach, Fleischman & Co. PC. (For a detailed listing, see Page D2.)

The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce also announced that Sally Fernandez was the winner of its annual Small Business Leader of the Year Award.

"The key to success is not the will to win — it is the will to prepare to win," said Jack Camper, president and CEO of the chamber.

Camper also encouraged attendees to vote down Proposition 200, a city initiative that would limit future water connections and repeal Tucson's garbage fee.

This year's nomination process brought in 462 potential finalists and winners, up more than 600 percent from the first year, which had about 72 nominations, Larry Finuf, regional president for Wells Fargo in Tucson and Greater Arizona, said when the finalists were announced.

Thursday night, Finuf said: "What's made this event so special is to hear the employees as well as the owners cheer for their companies and have pride in the place where they work."

[Click here to view Copper Cactus winner profiles](#)

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Bobby Joe's Irish Pub

Law Office Of J Marc Montijo Ltd

• Contact reporter Shelley Shelton at 434-4086 or sshelton@azstarnet.com.

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