

TECH FORT WORTH IMPACT AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORT WORTH, Texas – What does one do for an encore after having been a guest of Oprah’s and the first subject for CBS television’s new hit series, Undercover Boss?

For Lawrence O’Donnell III, President and COO of Waste Management, it’s the keynote speaker spot at the TECH Fort Worth IMPACT Awards luncheon.

The 2010 awards luncheon will be Wednesday, May 12 at the TCU Brown-Lupton University Union Ballroom. Last year, more than 230 community leaders, entrepreneurs, technology advocates and potential investors attended. The luncheon honors and features short presentations from award winners on how their innovations would impact our world in the areas of health, environment and community.

O’Donnell will speak about the importance of innovations and the new technologies that will make an impact on our environment during the next 25 years.

“We were thrilled when Larry accepted our invitation to speak,” said Darlene Ryan, Executive Director of TECH Fort Worth. “Making a real difference in our global environment will take many new technologies and approaches, including the ones we will recognize on May 12. Larry has a unique perspective on the problems to be tackled and what it will take to make a real impact.”

Before being elected president and COO of Waste Management in March 2004, O’Donnell was the company’s executive vice president, operations support and chief administrative officer. Previously, he had been vice president and general counsel for Baker Hughes Inc.

O'Donnell received his B.S. degree in engineering in 1980 from The University of Texas at Austin, and his J.D., cum laude, in 1983 from the University of Houston School of Law.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2004, he was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Energy Planning Council. Larry also is on the Board of Directors of Intrepid Properties, L.L.C., an oil and gas production and development company, and a member of the Development Board of the Brookwood Community for functionally disabled adults.

Undercover Boss, which premiered immediately after the Super Bowl, is a documentary-style series that trails CEOs as they go undercover to see how their companies really function. O'Donnell and Waste Management were the first featured.

After O'Donnell's keynote talk, three companies will be honored as IMPACT Award winners and will make short presentations. The categories:

Environment -- Recognizing companies that will solve our environmental problems. These companies are creating cleaner energy sources, reducing or eliminating waste, developing new recycling methods and improving the efficiency of current systems.

Community -- Recognizing companies that are providing solutions for our social issues. Finalists in this category are companies that are improving education, increasing safety, and security and enhancing our connectivity and communication.

Health -- Recognizing companies that will improve our health and wellness. Many of these companies are developing better prevention and treatments against infection, methods for earlier detection and more accurate diagnosis of disease, and improving healthcare and delivery.

“This awards event is inspiring for the entrepreneurs and the community,” Ryan said. “It is impressive to see the passion and optimism of these entrepreneurs who are working to better our world. And it's a privilege to be able to shine a spotlight on them.”

The 2009 winners and finalists:

Environmental

Winner – **Environmental Quality Management Associates**. EQMA's focus is producing environmentally responsible ways to process waste products. Its process converts food product waste and manure from cows, chickens and turkeys into ethanol, which is sold to fuel distributors.

Finalists – Auto Evolve and ZT Solar

Community

Winner – **Next Thing Productions/Precision Songs**. Next Thing Productions, Inc. meets an unfulfilled and rapidly growing need in the education of special needs children. Coupling the power of music with proven teaching drills, Next Thing developed Precision Songs, a curriculum that unlocks the learning potential of these children and dramatically improves their lives.

Finalists – Squeejee/Tweet Congress and IADDIC Shelters

Health

Winner – Magaw Medical. Magaw Medical delivers improved patient safety by providing an affordable solution intubation and a quality video laryngoscope at a price point accessible to all providers.

Finalists – CorInnova and MacuCLEAR

Early sponsors of the event are Sabre Holdings and the *Fort Worth Business Press*. Other local nonprofit organizations supporting the TECH Fort Worth IMPACT Awards include the Fort Worth and Dallas Regional chambers, the North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization, the Metroplex Technology Business Council, the MIT Enterprise Forum, BioDFW, the Fort Worth Life Science Coalition, Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center, and the Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University.

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TECH Fort Worth is a nonprofit technology incubator, with offices at the James E. Guinn Complex in Fort Worth South and at the UNT Health Science Center's Center for BioHealth. For more information about TECH Fort Worth, call Darlene Ryan, Executive Director, at (817) 339 8968, email her at Darlene@techfortworth.org or go to www.techfortworth.org. For more information about the TECH Fort Worth IMPACT Awards, go to www.impactourworld.com.