



## **2021 “IMPRESSIONS”: Excellence in Supplier Diversity Award Winners**

*May 6, 2021 “IMPRESSIONS”: Excellence Awards, Honoring the Best Minority Suppliers, Corporate Members, and Community Partners in Northern California, Nevada, and Hawai‘i.*

**Oakland, Calif., May 6** -- The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC), a local non-profit dedicated to promoting minority-owned businesses, announced the winners of its 2021 Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards on May 6, 2021 via a Zoom webinar movie screening due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Corporate Members and certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) competed for awards celebrating individual and corporate advocacy, MBE development, and partnership with WRMSDC. The event included speeches from top Sponsors, along with short videos presented by Headline Sponsor, Overland-Tandberg, and WRMSDC MBE Platinum Partners: Rose International, SBM Management, iTalent Digital, and Zones, Inc. A special tribute slideshow was presented to honor Kathleen Trimble of Robert Half’s retirement. “The Firewall vs. The Hack Attack”, was a game where WRMSDC President & CEO, Cecil “The Hack Attack” Plummer, faced Eric “The Firewall” Kelly, CEO of Overland-Tandberg, in a 5-round match where the “Hack Attack” attempted to break “The Firewall’s” defense by making him laugh with stories about weird things that have occurred at NMSDC conferences or WRMSDC events. The night ended with a virtual dance party, inclusive of WRMSDC staff and the 2021 award winners.

The WRMSDC Excellence Awards Gala was supported by the following top sponsors: Overland-Tandberg; Robert Half; Google; T-Mobile; Apple; SBM Management; EY; Way to Be; California DGS, and “Make a Difference” Sponsors: CLEAResult; Gilead; MUFG Union Bank, N.A.; Apple, Inc.; California Water Association; AMN Healthcare; Robert Half; Cisco.

Award winners are recognized for their commitment to Supplier Diversity and outstanding efforts in advancing purchasing opportunities for minority-owned businesses.

### **The 2021 Excellence in Supplier Diversity Award Winners are as follows:**

**Ambassador Award:** Mario Stadlander, Eagle Promotions

**Collaborator Award:** Cisco Systems

**Guardian Award:** Scott A. Vowels, Apple

**The Kathleen Trimble Legend Award:** Joan Kerr

**President’s Award:** Richard Chacon, MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

**Unsung Hero Award:** Joe Coe, Boyd Gaming Corporation

**Unsung Hero Award:** Edna Zapata-Fuller, State Compensation Insurance Fund

**Warrior Award:** Telma Lopez, Southwest Gas Corporation

**All Money is Green Award:** EverHive Corporation

**Buyer of the Year Award:** Paul Metivier, Cisco Systems

**Cornerstone of the Year Award:** Trident Consulting

**Executive of the Year Award:** Julius Robinson, MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

**Local Corporation of the Year Award:** Cisco Systems

**MBEIC People's Choice Award:** Edna Zapata-Fuller, State Compensation Insurance Fund

**National Corporation of the Year Award:** Kaiser Permanente

**Procurement Leader of the Year Award:** Walter Freeman, Apple

**Prime Supplier of the Year Award:** CBRE

**Supplier Diversity Leader of the Year Award:** Miquel "Mick" Penn, Swinerton

**Supplier of the Year:** This award recognizes four WRMSDC certified MBEs that demonstrate excellence in their services and products and show growth in sales and job creation. Winners are automatically entered into the National Minority Supplier Development Council's (NMSDC) regional competition:

**Class 1 Winner (annual sales of < \$1 million):** Direct Source Procurement

**Class 2 Winner (annual sales of \$1-10 million):** Commercial Energy Services & Supply (CESS)

**Class 3 Winner (annual sales of \$10-50 million):** Eagle Promotions

**Class 4 Winner (annual sales greater than \$50 million):** World Wide Technology

### **About WRMSDC**

The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) supports the growth and business development of minority communities by championing the use of minority-owned businesses in Northern California, Nevada, and Hawai'i. Please visit us online at [wrmsdc.org](http://wrmsdc.org).

###