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Signs Now, Klein Steel and QCI Direct win Rochester Business Ethics awards

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Signs Now co-owners Julie St. Germaine and Jackie Ciresi get a hug after the awards ceremony from Salley Thornton of Irondequoit, one of their customers and one of the people who encouraged them to apply for the award. / TINA YEE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Three companies — Klein Steel Service, QCI Direct and Signs Now of Rochester — were named winners on Tuesday of the Rochester Business Ethics awards.

Klein Steel won in the large company category for businesses with more than 150 employees, while QCI Direct was honored in the mid-size category for businesses with between 100 and 150 employees, and Signs Now won in the category for businesses with fewer than 50 workers.

The Rochester Business Ethics awards are a program of the Rochester Area Business Ethics Foundation, whose sponsors include the Rochester Business Alliance and St. John Fisher College.

This is the 10th year for the awards, which annually recognize local businesses that espouse and demonstrate a strong ethical foundation

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Jane Glazer of Brighton, owner of QCI Direct of Chili, smiles at the presenters while heading back to her seat after giving a brief speech after winning one of the Rochester Business Ethics Award at the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester on Tuesday. / TINA YEE / Staff photographer

in their practices and policies.

There were five finalists this year. The other two were Casco Security Systems Inc. of Rochester and Martino Flynn LLC of Pittsford;

In choosing a winner, the judges consider executive-level commitment to ethical practices; the quality of the company's ethics program; existing conflict resolution procedures; and demonstration of sound ethics and strong corporate citizenship.

"After 10 years of conducting this competition, we remain impressed by the continued interest among area businesses in doing things right," said Martin Palumbo, of the financial planning firm PS&E LLC and co-chair of the ethics awards program.

The award receipients are now eligible for a national competition, the American Business Ethics awards. In recent years, three Rochester-area companies — Midnight Janitorial, the former PAETEC Holding Corp. and QED Techologies —have received national honors.

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