

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – LOGO ATTACHED

Lee County/Horizon Council now accepting applications for the 25th annual Industry Appreciation Awards honoring local businesses

FORT MYERS, Fla. (April 29, 2016) – To salute excellence in Lee County’s business community, the Lee County Economic Development Office and the Horizon Council are seeking submissions for the 25th annual Industry Appreciation Awards. The honorees will be recognized during the Industry Appreciation luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 25 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Estero. Networking begins at 10:30 a.m. and the program is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Horizon Council will honor businesses in four categories:

- the **LocalLee Grown Business Award** will be awarded to a company that was founded in Lee County and is distinguished by its operational excellence and commitment to the vibrance of Southwest Florida’s business climate;
- the **Business Citizenship Award** honors a company whose financial, volunteer and active involvement in organizations and programs have helped create a better quality of life in Lee County;
- the **Emerging Business Leader Award** will be awarded to a relative newcomer to Lee County that is experiencing marked growth while introducing inventive products, services or business practices;
- the **Bruce T. Gora Legacy Award** has been added to honor the 25th anniversary of the Industry Appreciation Awards. It recognizes an individual who during the last 25 years has established a history of distinguished service and contributions to the betterment and growth of Lee County’s business community.

Applications for the 2016 Industry Appreciation Awards are now being accepted online at LeeCountyBusiness.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 27.

The Horizon Council is a public-private board established in 1991 to advise the Lee County Board of Commissioners on economic development issues. The Council has over 70 members representing six cities; chambers of commerce; economic development and trade organizations; community, business, and education organizations; along with various officers and at-large members. The Lee County Economic Development Office works to attract new and diversified businesses to the area, and improve the overall business environment in Lee County. For more information, visit www.leecountybusiness.com or call 239-338-3161.

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