

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Registration now open for Sept. 18 Industry Appreciation Awards
Event honors Lee County businesses**

Fort Myers, FL, July 30, 2015 — The Lee County Economic Development Office and the Horizon Council are now accepting reservations for the 2015 Industry Appreciation Awards. The event honors local businesses during the Industry Appreciation Week luncheon ceremony on Friday, Sept. 18, at 11:45 a.m. at the Harborside Event Center in the downtown Fort Myers River District. Tickets are \$50 per person and registration is available online at <http://www.horizonevents.com/>.

This year, the Horizon Council will honor businesses in four new 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 **Industry Luminary Award** honors a company that helps shape its industry locally, nationally or even globally.

Presented by the Horizon Council, an advisory group to the Lee County Board of Commissioners and the Lee County Economic Development Office, Industry Appreciation Week is a statewide event designed to create public awareness about how industry boosts the state's economy.

More than 1,000 people attended the 2014 Industry Appreciation Awards event.

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 more than 80 members representing five 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. Services include Site Selection Assistance, Demographic and Statistical Information, Business Assistance, Financial Assistance, Employee Training and Recruitment and Community Tours. For more information, visit www.leecountybusiness.com or call 239-338-3161.

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