

The Association

Mission

The mission of the *Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Association* is to foster, promote and recognize ethical business practices in the Buffalo Niagara region. In fulfilling its mission, the Association:

- **Expands community awareness of business ethics** through support of and participation in various programs, seminars and educational opportunities for students and businesses
- **Oversees and manages the annual BNBEA Award program** recognizing and rewarding ethical business practices.

Objectives

- Be the primary resource and influence for ethical business practices in Buffalo Niagara
- Raise community awareness of business ethics
- Provide practical knowledge and tools for creating ethical business culture
- Raise standards for business ethics in the region
- Honor those companies that exhibit the highest standards of business ethics
- Support educational programs, scholarships and events focused on ethics in business

The Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Association, established in 2010 as a 501(c)(3), is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of dedicated individuals who share a passion for raising the bar of business ethics.



Reed Stevens, DVM, Ellicott Small Animal Hospital – a recipient of the 2014 Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Award in the small business category – with a patient.



The Association offers programs, seminars and educational opportunities for students and businesses



The Awards identify and honor companies that demonstrate a commitment to ethical business practices. Above, JP Bak of Bak USA. Below: 10 years of recipients.

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BNBEA Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Association

BuffaloBusinessEthics.org

726 Exchange Street, Suite 822, Buffalo, NY 14210
716-854-5034

Celebrating Business Ethics

"It is a business lifetime achievement award, not just a one year who's-on-top award."

"It has elevated our commitment to a much higher level, in both service and commitment to integrity."

"We've experienced a high level of recognition within our community."

"The BNBEA application process helped us find our soft spots."

"It is a recognition that is earned, not given."

"It has enhanced our strategic planning process."

"After receiving the award, our staff is more empowered to do even better."

"With receipt of the award, we have seen a noticeable improvement in employee morale and pride."

"Doing something meaningful is doing something ethical."

"Our staff now builds ethics into their everyday decision making."

"It's helped us to identify weaknesses and implement improvements quickly."



BNBEA
Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Association



A business lifetime achievement award that measures success—not based on profits—but on the bond of trust built with customers, employees, and other businesses. *The Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Award is an award that's not given...it's earned.*

Purpose

The Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Award is the premier business ethics award in the Buffalo Niagara region honoring small, mid-sized and large companies exhibiting the highest standards of business ethics. The Award was established in 2007 to identify and honor companies that demonstrate a firm commitment to ethical business practices in daily operations, management philosophies and responses to crises or challenges.

Nominating

Nominations for the BNBEA Award must be submitted by late October each year. For more information, and an online nomination form, visit BuffaloBusinessEthics.org. A company may be nominated by a customer, client, employee, consultant, vendor, or private citizen impressed with the company's ethical conduct. Nominated companies are notified with a copy of the completed nomination form along with an invitation to an orientation meeting. *Non-profit organizations and financial service companies are not eligible for nomination.*

Application Process

A nominated company will be asked to prepare an application for submission. A mentor will be assigned to each nominee to guide them through the application process.

By means of an evaluation, three finalists from each of three business size groups, will be selected.

Awards are presented in three categories based on the number of employees:

- Small: 5-25 employees
- Mid-sized: 26-100 employees
- Large: more than 100 employees

A judging panel of business and community leaders will select one Crystal Award recipient from each of the groups.

Entries are judged by business, professional, academic and community leaders. There are two rounds of judging, a preliminary round and a finalist round.

Finalists and award recipients are recognized at the annual BNBEA celebratory luncheon event in May at which time the Crystal Award is presented to the recipient companies.

Benefits of Application Process

- The application process is a valuable tool, making organizations look inward at their existing practices and challenging them to objectively examine what they are doing and evaluate ways in which they can become a better company.
- By involving employees in the application submission process, businesses have seen an enthusiastic attitude change and 'buy-in' to help their company promote ethical business practices, both internally amongst themselves and externally with customers and vendors.
- Businesses find the exercise of preparing the submission well worth the time and effort. They become a better company because of it.

Value of the Award (as expressed by Recipients)

- With receipt of the award, organizations see an improvement in employee morale and pride
- In communication with customers, employees adopted an "If I were in their shoes..." attitude
- Employees build ethics into everyday decision making
- Employees take initiative to consciously promote doing the right thing – producing quality products and quality service
- Businesses can experience a high level of recognition within its community
- It enhances strategic planning process
- The recognition acts as an effective marketing tool
- The award is a helpful tool in recruiting employees
- It creates a bond of trust with potential customers
- It provides an inward look at existing practices and an objective examination of possible positive changes
- It confirms a commitment to ethical practices in a competitive business climate
- It has helped organizations to identify weaknesses and implement improvements more quickly
- It reflects recognition of a body of work over a period of years
- It provides a great networking opportunity



WGRZ's Scott Levin with 2016 award recipients.