



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **THE ENTERPRISE CENTER RECOGNIZES FOUR LEADING MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Enterprise Center (TEC) is proud to host **Passing the Torch**, an awards ceremony in honor of the next generation of minority entrepreneurs, on **October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The event will include the presentation of “Legacy Awards” to four minority- and family-owned companies from across the United States. Dr. Randall Pinkett, 4<sup>th</sup> season winner of Donald Trump’s *The Apprentice*, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Passing the Torch is an annual celebration of leading minority entrepreneurs in charge of their family’s business. By honoring business men and women who are continuing the legacy their parents have built, TEC salutes the entrepreneurial spirit and its ability to change lives.

Although this year’s award recipients come from a wide variety of industries, they all share a belief in the power of entrepreneurialism to generate positive change for local communities. The 2007 honorees include:

1) **H.J. Russell & Company**, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, is a leader in the construction and real estate development industry. With a comprehensive range of services, the firm has been recognized as the single largest Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) real estate firm in the country. Founded by H.J. Russell, the company is currently directed by his sons, Jerome and Michael.

2) **Roxbury Technology Corporation**, based out of Boston, MA, is committed to providing the highest quality remanufactured toner cartridges and imaging supplies for printer and fax machines. Roxbury Technologies was founded in 1994 by the late Archie Williams and is now run by his daughter, Beth Williams.

3) **Wilco Electronics Systems, Inc.** is a full-service telecommunications company serving the Philadelphia metropolitan area. The company has been in business for 23 years, starting as a private cable service provider.

4) With offices in Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia, **West Insurance Group** is one of the largest minority-owned financial services firms in the United States. The company provides risk management, brokerage, and financial services to private clients as well as to the public sector and governmental entities. West Insurance

Group was founded by Bernard T. West and is now operated by his son, Kobie T. West.

“This event exemplifies what we try to achieve here at The Enterprise Center,” said Della Clark, President of TEC. “In addition to fostering the growth of minority-owned businesses, we seek to celebrate the achievements of those who have found success. This year’s honorees demonstrate that minority entrepreneurship is thriving and poised to change the United States for the better.”

Sponsors for Passing the Torch include PNC Bank, Citi, Deloitte, H.J. Russell & Company, Independence Blue Cross, Verizon, and the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation.

Founded in 1989 by the Wharton Small Business Development Center, TEC provides access to capital, capacity building, business education and economic development opportunities to high-potential minority entrepreneurs. Through our portfolio of business-acceleration initiatives, TEC seeks to better position minority enterprises to compete in the local, regional, and global economies.

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