



The ESOP Association — Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter Awards Nomination Form

**Taking the time to
submit an application
can pay off**

Chapter winners
are automatically
submitted for the
national competition

One free registration to
the national conference
in DC in May

Plaque to display at
your company

Recognition at
Minnesota/Dakotas
chapter events

News release sent out
from association to
promote the award
winner

Please submit nomination to:

Sue Crockett,
Chapter Administrator
1805 3rd Avenue South, #301
Minneapolis, MN 55404
scrockett@esopexec.org
www.mndak-esop.org

Attention: All Companies Dedicated To Employee Ownership!

Nominations are now being accepted for the Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter “ESOP Company Of The Year” And “Employee Owner Of The Year”

Criteria for Company of the Year

The ESOP Company of the Year is a company that has a commitment to employee ownership, as evidenced by its involvement with The ESOP Association and its programs, by its communications with employees and by its commitment to the Vision of the ESOP Association that endorses employee participation, wealth creation and individual dignity and worth. The company should be financially solvent and should have more than one or two years of sponsoring an ESOP.

Criteria for Employee Owner of the Year

The ESOP Employee Owner of the Year should be an employee below the level of senior management. The individual should be active in the employee ownership activities of the company and/or activities of the ESOP Association where appropriate. Keep in mind the overwhelming criteria revolves around the person’s overall contribution as a “good” citizen in the company where he or she works.

DON'T DELAY - THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 1

Past Winners Say. . .

It was such an honor for Plastic Products Company to receive the Minnesota/Dakota Chapter of the year award. The award helped us solidify efforts within our company to grow our culture and continue to share the ESOP message of the great opportunities in being owners with our local community, chapter, and congressional leaders.

—Kim Maguire, Director of HR, Plastic Products, Company, Inc., Lindstrom, MN

Being recognized as Employee Owner of the Year was a game changer for me... I've always been a big cheerleader for our ESOP and was committed to doing my part to foster our ownership culture, but this recognition really motivated me to take things to the next level, within our company and within the ESOP community. There is so much for all of us to gain through the energy and ideas within this Association and it's so important to take the time to showcase your employees.

—Missy Pieske, Walman, Minneapolis, MN



The ESOP Association – Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter

AACE and Poster Contest

Now Is The Time To Document For AACE!

The ESOP Association (TEA) sponsors a competition known as the Annual Award for Communications Excellence (AACE) for companies who communicate their ESOPs to their respective employee owners. Many companies don't focus on the AACE competition until it is time to send in their entries. NOW is when you should be documenting your communications program and planning your AACE entry. The deadline will be around the first of March. Check the chapter website for deadline date.

Start documenting everything you do to communicate the ESOP. Getting a little crazy with your photos (starting now!) will help to “dress up” and add character to an entry. Visit the AACE section of the TEA website and begin deciding how you want to showcase your program.

All entries will be displayed at The ESOP Association's Annual Conference in May in Washington D.C. Winners will be honored at the Awards Banquet during the conference.

All the information about the AACE competition is shown on the TEA website, www.esopassociation.org/resources/resources_AACE.asp including past winners with photos and contact information. If you have questions concerning the AACE program, please feel free to contact Pat Barnes, AACE Program Manager, at (304) 274-251, or artpbarnes@comcast.net

Employee Ownership Month (EOM) Poster Contest

Nomination deadline: Late February/early March. Questions concerning the Poster contest may be directed to Gwen Rosenthal at gwenn@esopassociation.org, or 1-866-366-3832.

Judging Guidelines:

Good employee-owner education of EOM; Respect for the contributions of employee-owners; Integration of the concepts of both employee ownership as well as the celebration of EOM into the fabric of the poster design; Encouragement of ownership attitudes in the poster design; Clear, simple design; Creative use of ideas; Good graphic design.

The Prizes:

- One complimentary registration to the annual conference in Washington D.C.
- One complimentary ticket to the awards banquet.
- Company name appears on the poster as the designer of the winning poster.
- Certificate of achievement.
- Publicity in The ESOP Report.