

# POLARIS Takes Top Honors at Small Business Day

**E**ducation, legislative advocacy and awards were all part of the Indiana Chamber's 2008 Small Business Day at the Statehouse.

POLARIS Laboratories was chosen from more than 50 nominees for the 2008 Small Business of the Year award. Founded in 1999, the Indianapolis-based fluid analysis laboratory specializes in testing of oils, fuels and coolants. With 79 Hoosier employees and offices in Houston and Salt Lake City, POLARIS is quickly making its name known within its industry. The company serves customers in all 50 states and more than 15 countries. Consistent growth led POLARIS to achieving 2007 revenue of \$9.2 million.

Companies recognized as finalists for Small Business of the Year were: Elwood Staffing Services, headquartered in Columbus; Heraeus Electro-Nite Company of Peru; McCormick Motors

of Nappanee; Midwest Tube Mills of Madison; and Option Six of Bloomington. Additionally, 12 Hoosier businesses were honored as semi-finalists.

The awards luncheon also honored five state legislators with the Indiana Chamber's 2007-2008 Small Business Champion award for their dedication to bettering Indiana's business climate for small employers. The Small Business Champions were: Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Bremen), District 9; Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford), District 44; Rep. Matt Bell (R-Avilla), District 83; Rep. Scott Reske (D-Pendleton), District 37; and Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Howe), District 52.

The daylong event featured representatives of various state government agencies discussing programs focused on assisting small business owners, a keynote luncheon address from Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and an opportunity for small business owners to discuss key issues with legislators at the Statehouse.

**Sponsors:**  
 Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
 Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
 FORUM Credit Union  
 Indiana State University  
 Time Services



The Indiana Chamber's Vince Griffin leads a discussion on effectively communicating with legislators.

A large luncheon crowd was on hand to hear from Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman about the importance of small businesses in the state's economy.



CEO Bryan Debshaw of POLARIS Laboratories accepts the 2008 Small Business of the Year award.

