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**Award Winners Announced at  
“MidMichigan Innovators: Heading for the Big Leagues” Event**

**Mid-Michigan** (May 27, 2010) – More than 250 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **MidMichigan Innovators: Heading for the Big Leagues** entrepreneurial networking and awards event hosted by the MidMichigan Innovation Center (MMIC) and The Dow Chemical Company in Midland on Thursday, May 27, 2010. In addition to networking, attendees helped to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit in Michigan as four area leaders were recognized through special awards:

**Ted Doan Spirit of Innovation Award** – New this year: Created by MidMichigan Innovation Center and presented by keynote speaker Dwight Carlson of Coherix and by Junia Doan, the *Ted Doan Spirit of Innovation Award* showcases an outstanding innovator in the region. The award honors Herbert D. “Ted” Doan, former President & CEO of The Dow Chemical Company, a thought-leader in the State’s venture capital industry, and a visionary founder of MidMichigan Innovation Center.

Winner of the 2010 “Ted Doan Spirit of Innovation Award” is:

**Charles “Ted” Skinner of Midland, MI**

**BlueWater Angels Screening Committee Chair and Advanced Battery Concepts Business Development Director**

According to Carlson and Doan, Ted Skinner was selected and recognized as this year’s best example of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region and someone who displays the qualities exemplified by Ted Doan: Vision, Integrity, Character, and Generosity. (*Bio and photo for Skinner, below.*)

**MidMichigan Innovator Awards** – These annual awards recognize individuals for their innovation and leadership which has significantly enhanced the entrepreneurial environment in Michigan. Tonight we honor two such individuals:

**Ken Kousky of Saginaw, MI**

**SVSU “Dow Entrepreneur in Residence,” CEO, IP3 and BlueWater Angels President**

**Marv Pichla of Marlette, MI**

**Executive Director of THUMBWORKS, Owner of Inspiring Innovations, Inc. and  
National Center for Public Sector Innovations**

These individuals have been instrumental in creating awareness and support for entrepreneurs throughout Michigan. (*Bios and photos for Kousky and Pichla, below.*)

**MidMichigan Innovation Center Partner of the Year** – New this year: Created by MidMichigan Innovation Center to recognize heroic efforts to partner and find synergy for the good of entrepreneurs in this region.

**Diane Durance of Plymouth, MI**

**Executive Director of Great Lakes Entrepreneur’s Quest**

Durance has been involved across the state and in partnership with the MidMichigan Innovation Center and the BlueWater Angels on many new and expansive programs to support and develop the entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment so vital to Michigan’s future. Specifically noteworthy accomplishments are her leadership with Jumpstart, and with Boost (*Bio and photo for Durance, below.*)

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**Charles "Ted" Skinner**

Ted Skinner, retired Dow Corning leader, BlueWater Angels Screening Committee Chair and Advanced Battery Concepts Business Development Director has been contributing to the community and to entrepreneurial success for many years. He had a 31-year career at Dow Corning where he was located around the world, retiring in 2001. Ted's community support and involvement are strong and include extensive volunteering and championing worthy causes, leadership of the BlueWater Angels investment fund, consulting with investing in start-ups and serving as business development director for Advanced Battery Concepts. A graduate of Alma College with a Bachelors degree in Chemistry and from Vanderbilt University with a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry, he resides in Midland.



**Ken Kousky**

Ken Kousky, President and CEO of IP3, is a veteran of the IT software and services industries. Few individuals are able to blend such a broad range of experience and expertise. His years of experience as both an educator and an entrepreneur are reflected in his business and professional accomplishments. He is a visionary in the computing technology, education and marketing industry with three successful start-ups, two major mergers and an IPO under his belt. Ken serves at the president and executive director of the BlueWater Angels investment fund, and is the Dow "Entrepreneur in Residence" at Saginaw Valley State University. Ken resides in Saginaw, MI



**Marvin "Marv" Pichla**

Marvin "Marv" Pichla is a lifelong Thumb Area resident. He attended Central Michigan University and received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1978, and Masters Degree in Public Administration in 1982. In 2001, he received a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Organization and Management from Capella University. Since 1978 Dr. Pichla's professional career has revolved around developing and delivering unique employment training, human service and community improvement programs. His work experience has also offered him the opportunity to regularly interact with federal, state and local government officials. Marv owns Inspiring Innovations, Inc. ([inspiringinnovations.com](http://inspiringinnovations.com)) and National Center for Public Sector Innovations ([ncpsi.com](http://ncpsi.com)) small business ventures. He resides in Marlette, MI.



**Diane Durance**

Diane Durance has made a significant contribution to developing entrepreneurs and to connecting them with viable investors in her role as Executive Director of Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest. She was instrumental in developing and implementing "Boost," a program aimed at improving the "pitching" skills of entrepreneurs and giving them a venue to present their ideas. She serves on several boards across Michigan, particularly noteworthy are the New Enterprise Forum, and Jumpstart. Diane resides in the Plymouth, MI area.

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