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2005 INNOVISION TECHNOLOGY AWARD WINNERS NAMED

Greenville, SC, – Last evening, seven Upstate organizations were honored as 2005 InnoVision Technology Awards winners for demonstrating advancements in innovation and technology. Accomplishments of an additional eleven finalists were also highlighted at the Awards Dinner held at The Palmetto Expo Center. The keynote speaker for the event was Brad van Liew, Executive Director of the South Carolina Maritime Heritage Foundation.

More than 300 attended the Awards Dinner, which featured video highlights of the accomplishments of the XX finalists. Winners in each category were announced as follows.

Max Heller was honored as this year's recipient of the **Dr. Charles Townes Individual Achievement Award** for his role as a key visionary and innovator for Greenville and the entire Upstate. His leadership of the blue ribbon task force was formed by the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce in 1987 to address the question "what do we want to be in the year 2005?" and their creation of the document called Vision 2005: Greenville, The Journey Forward was cited as a key catalyst for the metamorphosis of Greenville. It addressed six different areas: Economy, Livability, Infrastructure, Community, Government and Leadership. With a focus on technology, research, and education, as well as the arts and infrastructure, the plan integrated the key components for intentional, controlled and sustained growth and development, as well as an improved standard of living.

Many of the milestone achievements of the past 5 to 7 years are the culmination of initiatives established by the Task Force almost 20 years ago:

- A Year-Round Governor's School for the Arts
- A Perimeter Highway
- An Upstate Coliseum
- Removal of the Camperdown Bridge and a Reedy River Walk

Max Heller is also a man of the people. He was recently quoted as saying "We care about

everybody.” These are not idle words. Vision 2005 encompassed an expanded public library system and public/private commitment to low-income housing.

The Individual Achievement Award honored not only Mr. Heller’s vision, but also his being a catalyst and active participant in bringing Vision 2005 to fruition.

The InnoVision Advisory Board also announced the launch of the **Young Innovator Program**, a initiative designed to recognize successful programs that support our youth, to raise awareness about the need for more programs in this area, to generate support of such programs from the Upstate business community, and to influence/encourage these young innovators to remain in the Upstate as they continue their education and launch their careers.

In the inaugural year of InnoVision’s Young Innovator Program, two exceptional programs and respective student winners were recognized::

- **The Michelin Invention Convention**
 - Elizabeth Epting, who developed a Handicapped Student Assistance Board;
 - Sarah Strickland, who invented an environmentally-friendly refrigerator with a see-through door;
 - Curtis Todd, who developed a video game on T183-RC; and
 - Caitlin Valko, who invented an alarmed garbage can.

- **The Greenville County Science Fair**
 - Carly Caldwell won First Place for 5th grade and Grand Prize for all of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade projects for her project, titled “Which Breakfast Drink Has the Lowest Acid Level?”
 - Erika Mino won First Place overall for her oral presentation at the science fair on “Carnivore or Herbivore: Do Students Like Meat or Vegetables for Lunch?”
 - Ryan Hurst won First Place in the Middle School Division for his project on “What brand of paintball shoots the Farthest?”
 - Christopher Siden won the Grand Prize of the unmentored Division for High School for his project on “Efficiency of Super Computer Using Java Remote Method in Vocation.”

Michelin sponsored the program and announced that the program has been named in honor and memory of Ibrahim Janajreh..

Michelin NA was awarded a **Hall of Fame Award** for continued leadership in innovation as evidenced by the development of the Tweel. Michelin Americas Research Corporation engineered and developed the Tweel. Michelin North America, which is headquartered in Greenville, employs nearly 8,000 people in South Carolina and includes Michelin Americas Research Corporation where the company’s latest breakthrough in advancing mobility, known as the Tweel, was engineered and developed. First introduced at the 2005 North American International Auto Show, Tweel is, quite simply, a tire without air. Its spoke and hub design replaces the need for air pressure while delivering performance previously available only from traditional pneumatic tires. With future applications of Tweel, checking tire pressure, fixing flats, handling highway blowouts and balancing between traction and comfort could all fade into distant memory.

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Southside High School was the winner of the **Innovation in Education Award**. Southside High School, encompassing an International Baccalaureate curriculum, is in Greenville County School District. Southside created the Southside Automated Machines InvenTeam in September 2004. This team competed nationally and was one of 13 teams to receive a Lelelson-MIT grant to invent a remotely operated stair-climbing device for carrying firefighting gear up stairs.

In an eight-month timeframe, the team of more than 25 students researched, designed and fabricated a working prototype which was unveiled at an MIT conference in June.. The final full sized, radio-controller prototype now called Fire SAM weighs about 200 pounds, contains a twelve-volt, computerized control system, four 24-volt motors, two sets of stair-climbing tri-wheels, and a video camera.

Integrated Support Systems, Inc. was named the winner of the **Technology Application Award**. Integrated Support Systems partnered with The Boeing Company to speed the distribution process for complex manufacturing information within Boeing's global supply chain. ISS created an off-the-shelf solution, InSync/SI®, which enables Boeing suppliers to receive and manage complex aircraft product structure information. This information is combined with associated documents and specific manufacturing instructions into a digital package that contains everything necessary to manufacture a part.

InSync/SI®, eliminated the requirement to print and ship millions of pages of paper documents to suppliers around the world. It also allowed Boeing's international suppliers to dramatically reduce engineering cycle times and be easily integrated into the supplier's own business and manufacturing systems

The **Technology Development Award** was awarded to **Vascular Innovations**. Vascular Innovations, LLC, in Greenville, is a medical device company that develops and commercializes creative technologies related to vascular disease. The company has designed the Hemoaccess Valve system, a simple-to-use, implantable device designed to eliminate complications associated with arteriovenous grafts (the current means for connection of hemodialysis patients to the dialysis machine.) This new device works on the basis of hydraulic mechanics and offers a unique approach to a problem that is the leading cause of in-patient hospitalization among patients with kidney failure and that has been often called "the Achilles heel" of hemodialysis.

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Alliance for Small Businesses and Non-profit Organizations was a winner of the **Community Service Award**. The Alliance is a service focused group that includes the Anderson and Greenville County Library Systems, the Clemson University Service Alliance, the Small Business Development Centers, SCORE and the South Carolina Center for Grassroots and Nonprofit Leadership. The Alliance developed Icare, based on a technology incubator that brings together resources, training, and service learning opportunities in an internet-based collaborative environment. It has effectively served college students seeking real-world learning experiences and more than 25 organizations. The Alliance, working with SENIOR Solutions, recently assisted the elderly with student designed computer training programs and student developed software to determine eligibility for subsidized prescription drug programs.

IBM was also named winner of the **Community Service Award** for its KidSmart program, which provides technology tools to pre-K child development centers and kindergarten classrooms in underserved communities. The program consists of a donation of a Young Explorer learning center, which includes an IBM computer system, award winning literacy, math and science software, and colorful Little Tikes furniture to contain the unit. Comprehensive teacher training is also provided to help teachers integrate the technology and software into their curriculum. A web site is available for teachers and parents, offering additional resources and ideas for working with children and technology.

IBM Greenville has partnered with the Urban League of the Upstate, United Way's Success by 6 and other organizations to coordinate this program.

Advanced Data Mining won the **Small Enterprise Award**. Advanced Data Mining International provides powerful solutions for real-time monitoring, prediction, and control. ADMI integrates Artificial Intelligence techniques such as machine learning, artificial neural networks, and expert systems with signal processing, statistics, and high-dimensional visualization.. From monitoring data for federal agencies to detect potential chemical or biological attacks on water supply systems to analyzing the water levels of the Florida Everglades to determine the effects on an endangered bird, Greenville-based ADMI has applied its sophisticated technology to projects that have significant social, health and financial impacts on entire communities, regions and industries.

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About InnoVision

The InnoVision Technology Awards program, founded in 1999 by Deloitte & Touche, is dedicated to the advancement of technology in the Upstate through communication, education and recognition of the spirit of innovation and technological progress. Through its annual awards program, InnoVision recognizes and honors Upstate businesses, individuals and organizations that have demonstrated significant advancements in these areas. For more information about InnoVision, visit www.innovisionaward.org

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