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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oregon Entrepreneurs Network Opens Nominations for 2010 OEN Tom Holce Entrepreneurship Award**

**April 5, 2010, Portland, Oregon** – Today the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN) announced that nominations have opened for the OEN Tom Holce Entrepreneurship Awards. Nomination information is available on the OEN Website ([http://www.oen.org/events\\_oen\\_awards.aspx](http://www.oen.org/events_oen_awards.aspx)). Organizations and individuals based in Oregon or Southwest Washington are eligible for the awards. **The submission deadline for nominations is Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

The OEN Tom Holce Entrepreneurship Awards are a highly competitive process and it is a significant achievement just to be named as a finalist. In honor of that, OEN not only produces a gala celebration focusing on excellence in entrepreneurship but also the awards presented to the winners are true works of art. This high profile gala event attracts a crowd of more than 800 of Oregon and SW Washington's most influential business people. Finalists receive premium exposure leading up to, during and after the event.

Awards will be presented in four categories: OEN Development Stage Company of the Year; OEN Working Capital Stage Company of the Year; OEN Growth Stage Company of the Year and the OEN Entrepreneurship Award for Individual Achievement. These categories allow competition between companies in different markets based on performance during a particular stage in the company's development.

"The OEN Tom Holce Entrepreneurship Awards honors everything it takes for entrepreneurs to create a business out of an idea," said Linda Weston, OEN's president and executive director. "They are intended to celebrate entrepreneurs and highlight their importance to the region's economy."

The awards will be presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual OEN Tom Holce Entrepreneurship Awards, which will be held Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Portland Hilton & Executive Towers. Registration information is available at [www.oen.org](http://www.oen.org)

**About Oregon Entrepreneurs Network**

Founded in 1991, the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing opportunities for Oregon entrepreneurs and to improving the business climate for emerging companies statewide. The organization has members throughout Oregon and southwest Washington. For more information about OEN, visit [www.oen.org](http://www.oen.org).

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