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Oregon Entrepreneurs Network Honors Ken and Joan Austin with the 2010 OEN Lifetime Achievement Award

A-dec co-founders propelled business into world's largest dental supply company

Portland, Ore., July 12, 2010—The [Oregon Entrepreneurs Network \(OEN\)](#) today announced that Ken and Joan Austin, co-founders of Newberg, Oregon-based [A-dec Inc.](#), are the deserving recipients of the 2010 OEN Lifetime Achievement Award. At the discretion of the OEN Board of Directors, the OEN presents the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) to an Oregon or SW Washington-based individual who has had a long career of entrepreneurial achievements that place them in the top echelon amongst their peers. The Austins will be presented the award at the OEN Tom Holce Entrepreneurship Awards on September 22nd at the Portland Hilton Downtown. More information about the event and the list of finalists in the other award categories can be found at <http://www.oenentrepreneurshipawards.org>.

Ken and Joan Austin co-founded A-dec Inc. in 1964 and have since quietly grown the business into the largest dental supply company in the world—employing nearly 1000 people and consistently named as one of the top 100 Oregon companies by the *Portland Business Journal*. The Austins have positively impacted Oregon's economy via their entrepreneurial success through their business leadership support and remarkable philanthropy efforts.

The Austins were also one of the initial funding sources for the launch of the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network in the early 90s. To demonstrate the power of an effective business and education partnership, they were passionately involved in the Multiple Engineering Cooperative Program and the Civil Engineering Cooperative Program (MECOP and CECOP) at Oregon State University, Portland State University and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

Both Ken and Joan are Oregon State University graduates and have provided generous support to their alma mater. Throughout their careers, both have assisted local entrepreneurs by serving on boards of business organizations, as well as funding entrepreneurship programs, such as OEF/OEN, the OSU Austin Entrepreneurship Program, the OSU Austin Family Business Program, the new OSU College of Business building, and various scholarships.

About the 2010 OEN Lifetime Achievement Award

This award—which is given at the discretion of the OEN Board of Directors—is awarded to an individual who has had a long career of entrepreneurial achievements that place them in the top echelon with their peers. Recipients typically possess the following:

- Started and built an Oregon-based company (or companies) to a major size
- Built a highly regarded company amongst its customers, employees and vendors
- Built a company that had a measurable impact on Oregon's economy
- Given back to the community in a significant way

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- Earned the highest reputation for integrity
- Served as a mentor to other entrepreneurs
- Invested in other entrepreneurial companies

About OEN

Founded in 1991, the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing opportunities for Oregon entrepreneurs and improving the business climate for emerging, growth-oriented companies statewide. The organization has members throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. For more information about the OEN, visit its website at www.oen.org.