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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mike Hogan
Fahlgren Mortine Public Relations
mike.hogan@fahlgren.com
614.383.1617

**Nomination Deadline Approaching for Regional TechColumbus
Innovation Awards**

Columbus, OH (October 6, 2009) – The nomination deadline is fast approaching for the annual TechColumbus Innovation Awards, which honor individuals, teams, and companies with outstanding technology achievements. Last year’s premier event attracted 1,000 attendees and a record number of nominations. Nominations can be made by visiting:
http://www.techcolumbusinnovationawards.org/makenom2_08.cfm.

The winners will be announced at the Innovation Awards gala on the evening of February 4, 2010. Hosted by 10TV’s Andrea Cambern, the event will take place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Individual tickets and corporate tables are available at early bird prices through December 10.

“The Innovation Awards is an opportunity for the best and brightest minds in Central Ohio to be recognized for their technological achievements,” said Tim Haynes, Vice President of Member Services and Marketing at TechColumbus. “This event provides the opportunity to shine a light, not only on individuals and their companies, but the region’s successes as a whole.”

Company Award Categories

- Outstanding Startup Business
- Outstanding Product (*fewer than 50 employees*)
- Outstanding Product (*more than 50 employees*)
- Outstanding Service (*fewer than 50 employees*)
- Outstanding Service (*more than 50 employees*)
- Outstanding Technology Team
- Minority Owned Enterprise
- Green Innovation
- Innovation in Non-Profit Service Delivery

Individual Award Categories

- Executive of the Year (*fewer than 50 employees*)
- Executive of the Year (*more than 50 employees*)
- Outstanding Woman in Technology
- Inventor of the Year

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“It is the academy awards of Central Ohio technology innovation, says Dr. Alice Epitropoulos, owner of Epico, who received the 2008 Innovation Award in the Outstanding Woman in Technology category. “The Innovation Awards recognize those who take the initiative and make a difference.”

“The awards serve an important role in bringing the region’s tech community together,” adds Mike Lanese, founder of ClearSaleing and the 2008 Executive of the Year Innovations Awards winner. “It gives Central Ohio a chance to build an identity that gets recognition on the national stage. There’s no question that our award paid huge dividends for us in terms of marketing.”

“The award has accelerated our introduction to other technology firms and also provided instant recognition among local venture capital players,” according to Kelly Kelleher, of Nationwide Children’s Hospital, who received the 2008 Outstanding Technology Team Innovation Award. “This has allowed us to speed up our business planning and more fully engage internal and external partners.”

About TechColumbus (www.techcolumbus.org)

TechColumbus is a nonprofit organization that focuses on technology-based economic development in the 15 counties of central Ohio. TechColumbus accomplishes this by:

- Providing professional development and technology business assistance to both large and small companies that rely on technology for business success
- Managing a 62,000 square foot technology business incubator that has been recognized as one of the best in the country
- Managing TechStart, the \$22.5 million Central Ohio Entrepreneurial Signature Program, with a mission to create, finance and launch new tech companies in central Ohio
- Assisting in the development of facilities for tech companies
- Working with state and local organizations to attract new tech companies to the region

For more information about TechColumbus visit www.techcolumbus.org.

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