



News Release

6th Annual NACE ISES Chicago Excellence Awards *Presented by the Chicago Chapters of ISES and NACE*

2007 NICE AWARDS COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2007

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6th ANNUAL NICE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Chicago Area Catering and Special Events Associations Team up to Honor the Area's Best

CHICAGO, IL, March 5, 2007 – The winners of the 6th Annual NICE Awards (NACE ISES

Chicago Excellence Awards) were honored on February 27 during the awards dinner and celebration, "A Passport to Italy," at the Grand Piazza Chicago. Nearly 200 people attended the Italian themed event hosted by The Comcast Network's Cindy Bravos and watched as local event professionals and companies were recognized for their outstanding work.

The NICE Awards were established to recognize Chicago area members of NACE (National Association of Catering Executives) and ISES (International Special Events Society) for their accomplishments within the special events industry. This year's winners were honored for events that occurred between November 1, 2005 and October 31, 2006. The joint awards ceremony celebrates achievements in the areas of event planning, catering, entertainment, creative and support services.

The 2007 NICE Award entries were judged anonymously on their merit by the North Carolina Chapters of NACE and ISES in accordance with pre-established judging criteria.

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Listed by general and sub category, the 6th Annual NICE Award winners are as follows:

Lifetime Achievement

- **2007 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient** – Mary Kay Weber of Prism Entertainment

Event Planning

- **Best Corporate Event under \$25,000-\$75,000** – Gwendolyn Y. McNutt, CSEP of Comcast Cable
- **Best Corporate Event over \$75,000** – Fergus Rooney of Event Architects
- **Best Social Event under \$25,000** – Jamie Carlson of House of Harley-Davidson
- **Best Social Event \$25,000-\$75,000** – Frank J. Andonoplas, MBC of Frank
- **Best Social Event over \$75,000** – Susan Cordogan and Team of Big City Events
- **Best Wedding under \$25,000** – Ali Phillips of Engaging Events by Ali, Inc.
- **Best Wedding \$25,000-\$75,000** – Susan Cordogan and Team of Big City Bride
- **Best Wedding over \$75,000** – Susan Cordogan and Team of Big City Bride
- **Best Fund Raiser/Non-Profit Event under \$25,000** – Jamie Pritscher of Tasty Catering
- **Best Fund Raiser/Non-Profit Event over \$75,000** – Kathy Miller of Total Event Resources
- **Best Picnic** – Ellen Harte of Tasty Catering
- **Best NICE Team Event** – Susan Cordogan and Team of Big City Bride, Chris Paszek of BBJ Linen, Megan Taylor of Fig Media, Nancy Brockway of Hall's Rental Service and Lisa Lutz of River East Arts Center

Catering

- **Best Off-Premise Catered Event under \$10,000** – Anna Wollin of Tasty Catering
- **Most Creative Planned Menu** – Theresa Kleptach of Chartwells Dining Services – DePaul Catering

Entertainment

- **Best Entertainment \$5,000-\$15,000** – Mary Rothe of Artists, Events and Entertainment
- **Best Entertainment over \$15,000** – Mary Rothe of Artists, Events and Entertainment

Creative Services

- **Best Theme Décor \$20,000-\$50,000** – Pamela Patsavas, CSEP, of Distinctive Event Productions, Ltd.
- **Best Theme Décor over \$50,000** – Lori Manby, CSEP and Jim Bailey, CSEP of The Meetinghouse Companies, Inc.
- **Best Decorative Linens** – Douglas Crowe, CERP of Chicago Party Rental
- **Best Tabletop Design** – Ellen Harte of Tasty Catering

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Support Services

- **Best Use of Lighting** – Kathy Miller of Total Event Resources
- **Best Use of Tenting** – Matthew Fitzgerald and Gary Braun of Chicago Party Rental
- **Best Logistical Achievement for an Event** – Kathy Miller of Total Event Resources and Ed Graziano of Corporate Event Enterprises
- **Best Use of Rental Equipment** – Sandy Sobczak, CERP of Chicago Party Rental

The NICE Awards Committee is grateful to its sponsors, raffle prize and goody bags donors who helped to make the event a great success. The sponsors of the 6th Annual NICE Awards include Artists, Events and Entertainment, BBJ Linen, Catch the Moment, Chicago Party Rental, Comcast, CORT Event Furnishings, Embossed Graphics, The Grand Piazza Chicago, Hall's Rental Service, Intelligent Lighting Creations, Inc., Levy Events and Catering, Martene & Associates, The Meetinghouse Companies, Inc., Rick Aguilar Studios and Ron Harris Music Group.

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International Special Events Society - ISES

Founded in 1990, the Chicago Chapter of the International Special Events Society (ISES) strives to elevate the Chicago area special events industry through education and networking, with an emphasis on ethics and Professionalism. Membership joins professionals from a variety of special event disciplines including journalists, venues, caterers, meeting and event planners, decorators, audio-visual technicians, party and convention coordinators, educators, photographers, hotel sales managers and many more.

National Association of Catering Executives - NACE

The Chicago Chapter of the National Association of Catering Executives (NACE) provides catering and event professionals with superior education, networking, and resources to enhance their career success and deliver excellence to their clients.