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BUSINESS AWARDS

Twenty San Diego County businesses were honored Tuesday for ethical business practices by the **San Diego Better Business Bureau** in the 10th annual BBB Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics. Seven for-profit companies and one nonprofit organization were top winners of a 2007 Torch Award while 12 others were named as finalists. The awards go to businesses and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to ethical practices.

“Each honoree exemplifies that adhering to a fair and honorable marketplace gives a company a competitive advantage, and that BBB ethical standards are the hallmark of a successful, competitive company,” says **Sheryl Bilbrey**, BBB president and CEO.

Selected as winners of a 2007 BBB Torch Award (categories were based on number of employees which appear in parenthesis): **McFarlane Promotions** of Downtown San Diego (one-to-four); **Dream Design Builders of Rancho Bernardo (five-to-10)**; **Jackson Design & Remodeling** of San Diego (11-to-24); **Centara Capital Management Group Inc.** of Mission Valley (25-to-99); **Barney & Barney** of San Diego (100-to-249); **North Island Credit Union** of Chula Vista (250-to-499); **Sycuan Resort and Casino** of El Cajon (more than 500); and **Pacific Safety Council** of San Diego (charity/non-profit category).

Finalists included: **Velocity Audio Visual Services** of Kearny Mesa (one-to-four); 3 **Blind Mice Window Coverings** of San Diego (five-to-10); **Groovy Like a Movie** of Kearny Mesa (five-to-10); **Select Mailing Service Inc.** of Kearny Mesa (11-to-24); **K-CO Construction Inc.** of Clairemont (11-to-24); **Murray Lampert Construction** of Mission Valley (11-to-24); **Anderson Plumbing, Heating & Air Inc.** of El Cajon (25-to-99); **Marrokal Construction Co.** of Lakeside (25-to-99); **JW Floor Covering Inc.** of San Diego (100-to-249); **Toyota of El Cajon** (100-to-249); **Cabrillo Credit Union** of Scripps Ranch (charity/non-profit); **Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego Inc.** (charity/non-profit).

Five high school students who wrote essays on the importance of ethics and integrity in the community were presented with cash scholarships. A total of 234 essays from students attending 78 different high schools in San Diego County were evaluated by the judges. **College Loan Corp.** of Rancho Bernardo was the presenting sponsor of the scholarship program. This year's scholarship recipients were (amounts awarded appear in parenthesis): **Calvin Boice**, a junior at **Carlsbad High School** in Carlsbad (\$1,500); **Brian Cheng**, a junior at **San Dieguito Academy** in Encinitas (\$1,250); **Samuel Drummy**, a junior at **Saint Augustine High School** in San Diego (\$1,000); **Nathan Hochstetler**, a senior at **Valley Center High School** in Valley Center (\$750); **Taylor Semrau**, a senior at **Valley Center High School** in Valley Center (\$500).

San Diego County Credit Union was presenting sponsor of the 2007 Torch Awards, held at the **Town and Country Resort & Convention Center**. A keynote address was delivered by **Keith Slotter**, special agent in charge of the San Diego **FBI** office.