



Deadline: Monday, August 8, 2016

Imagine strolling the red carpet, gazing at the “glitzy Hollywood lights,” and hearing the phrase, “And the Summit Award goes to... (your company name)” as we celebrate business achievements in Garner. Now is your time to shine while telling your business story!!

You do it every day through marketing and networking. So take your “branding” to the next level...tell us what makes your company special; let us celebrate YOU!! Gain recognition, receive accolades and positive press, generate more interest and business for your company. It is at no cost to you; YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE AND EVERYTHING TO GAIN!!

All finalists will be announced prior to the event through Chamber marketing. All Chamber members are invited to join us as we recognize the finalists and announce the winners at the 2016 Annual Meeting & Summit Awards Banquet on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Grand Marquise Ballroom in Garner.

First Citizens Bank Forever First Award

This award is intended to shine a light on smaller and medium-sized businesses that create real and lasting value for their customers instead of merely looking for short-term sales. Businesses are rewarded for maintaining high ethical standards and creating enduring relationships with customers who respect and trust them.

Wells Fargo Vision and Values Award

This award recognizes businesses that display a thinking culture in which their employees are able to grow within the company, as well as those companies that invest in the community in which they reside.

Jones Insurance Excellence in Business Award

1-15 Employees Award | 16+ Employees Award

This award recognizes businesses for outstanding achievements in management, innovation, community involvement, and workplace excellence.

ALCO Custom Cabinets Steady Growth and Achievement Award

This award recognizes businesses that have maintained steady growth while achieving success.

F&D Huebner, LLC dba McDonald’s Entrepreneurial Award

This award recognizes businesses that have taken initiatives while using innovation in problem-solving and sustainment. It showcases the efforts that companies have made to successfully distinguish themselves from their competitors.

National Pawn Nonprofit Achievement Award

This award recognizes nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated excellence by effectively addressing a problem within the community, and efficiently using available resources to achieve maximum positive impact.

Entry Requirements & Criteria

Entry Requirements

- Members in good standing with the Garner Chamber of Commerce who meet the award criteria on the entry forms are encouraged to apply for their company.
- Companies can only win in the same category every three years. Companies are encouraged to apply for an award in a different category if they are previous winners.
- Material to be covered is included in each award's entry form.
- Keep answers concise and non-repetitive.
- Include specific examples, testimonials, and/or data to support your responses.

Entry Format

- Entire entry for each award should be no more than 2 pages.
- Submissions must be on 8.5" x 11" paper and no smaller than 10-point font. Essay format, bullet points, or a combination of both are acceptable when answering questions.
- Do not include artwork or additional material. Doing so may result in disqualification.
- Entry form and summary should be stapled together.

Submitting Entries

Entry Deadline:

All entries must be received by Monday, August 8, 2016 at 5 pm. No extensions will be granted.

Mail all entries to:

Attn: Summit Awards 2016
Garner Chamber of Commerce
401 Circle Drive, Garner, NC 27529
919.772.6440

or

• Email submissions to
awards@garnerchamber.com

or

• Drop off submissions at the Chamber

NO faxed copies will be accepted

Judging Information

All submissions will be sent outside of North Carolina to be judged.

Each question is worth the stated number of points, for a total of 100 points per award. See award entry forms.

Finalists will be notified before the awards ceremony and winners will be announced at the ceremony.

Questions?

Email: awards@garnerchamber.com

First Citizens Bank Forever First Award Entry Form

Garner Chamber of Commerce Summit Awards 2016

Company Info:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

This award is intended to shine a light on smaller and medium-sized businesses that create real and lasting value for their customers instead of merely looking for short-term sales. Businesses are rewarded for maintaining high ethical standards and creating enduring relationships with customers who respect and trust them.

Criteria

- Member in good standing with the Garner Chamber of Commerce (financial service institutions, brokerage firms, and insurance agencies are not eligible)
- At least three full years of operation, beginning January 1, 2013 with gross annual revenues not exceeding \$10 million in 2015
- Businesses must demonstrate exceptional performance on three key criteria: 1) provide high quality products and services that offer great value to customers; 2) maintain a positive and ethical operating environment that respects customers and employees; 3) demonstrate a proven commitment to lasting customer relationships based on long-term value for both the customer and the business.

Consider the following questions in your entry summary: (for guidelines, refer to entry requirements and criteria section on page 2)

1. **(10 points)** Discuss why the company should receive the First Citizens Bank Forever First Award. State the company's business philosophy.
2. **(30 points)** Explain how your company builds success on the foundation of quality in your products or services and commitment to your customers.
3. **(30 points)** Discuss the way you build long-term relationships with your customers. Explain the values and processes that help you focus on lasting customer value instead of short-term sales.
4. **(30 points)** Discuss how your company's values are reflected in the way you treat your employees and the ways you motivate them to provide exceptional service to your customers.

Please return completed forms no later than 5 pm on 8/8/16; Email: awards@garnerchamber.com; Mail: Garner Chamber of Commerce 401 Circle Dr., Garner 27529; or Drop off at Chamber front desk.

Wells Fargo Vision and Values Award Entry Form

Garner Chamber of Commerce Summit Awards 2016

Company Info:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

This award recognizes businesses that display a thinking culture in which their employees are able to grow within the company, as well as those companies that invest in the community in which they reside.

Criteria

- At least three full years of operation, beginning January 1, 2013
- Businesses must demonstrate that they do what is right for their employees and community, and achieve ultimate success in pursuit of their vision

Consider the following questions in your entry summary: (for guidelines, refer to entry requirements and criteria section on page 2)

1. **(10 points)** Describe why your company should receive the Vision and Values Award.
2. **(30 points)** Describe your company's culture (i.e. values, behaviors, expectations, philosophies, and beliefs).
3. **(30 points)** Tell how your business gives back to the community.
4. **(30 points)** What do you do to cultivate, inspire and develop your employees? Give 1-3 examples of how this is accomplished.

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OR

Mail: Garner Chamber of Commerce

Attn: Summit Awards 2016

401 Circle Drive, Garner, NC 27529

OR

Drop off: at Chamber front desk

Questions? awards@garnerchamber.com

Jones Insurance Excellence in Business Award Entry Form

Garner Chamber of Commerce Summit Awards 2016

Company Info:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Circle the category that best fits your company:

1-15 Employees

16+ Employees

This award recognizes businesses for outstanding achievements in management, innovation, community involvement, and workplace excellence.

Criteria

- At least three full years of operation, beginning January 1, 2013
- Businesses must demonstrate achievement and innovation in management, workplace excellence, and community and social responsibility

Consider the following questions in your entry summary: (for guidelines, refer to entry requirements and criteria section on page 2)

1. **(10 points)** In what year was your company founded? Describe your business and give a brief history of your company.
2. **(30 points)** Describe your company's management innovations and examples of workplace excellence.
3. **(30 points)** Does your business support business collaborations to promote Garner area businesses (relationships with other community partners/business associations)? Give examples of your company's commitment to the community and social responsibility.
4. **(30 points)** Tell us one story or example that you think embodies what makes your company special or unique. It could be a customer story, employee story, or other.

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OR

Mail: Garner Chamber of Commerce

Attn: Summit Awards 2015

401 Circle Drive, Garner, NC 27529

OR

Drop off: at Chamber front desk

Questions? awards@garnerchamber.com

ALCO Custom Cabinets Steady Growth and Achievement Award Entry Form

Garner Chamber of Commerce Summit Awards 2016

Company Info:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Company/Organization Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

This award recognizes businesses that have maintained steady growth while achieving success.

Criteria

- At least five full years of operation, beginning January 1, 2011
- Annual business measures increased over the past five years – 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- Businesses must demonstrate their achievements over the past 5 years

Consider the following questions in your entry summary: (for guidelines, refer to entry requirements and criteria section on page 2)

1. **(10 points)** In what year was your business founded? Describe your company and give a brief history of your company, including your business growth.
2. **(40 points)** Describe achievements (in the past five years) that you feel qualify your company for this award.
3. **(50 points)** What are the key measurements and results demonstrating your steady growth for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 (i.e., revenue, sales volume, listing volume, profit margins)?

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F&D Huebner, LLC dba McDonald's Entrepreneurial Award

Entry Form

Garner Chamber of Commerce Summit Awards 2016

Company Info:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

This award recognizes businesses that have taken initiatives while using innovation in problem-solving and sustainment. It showcases the efforts that companies have made to successfully distinguish themselves from their competitors.

Criteria

- At least three full years of operation, beginning January 1, 2013
- Businesses must demonstrate innovative approaches to marketing products and services
- Businesses must demonstrate risk taking and/or changes in business plans that contributed to the continued growth and progress of the company

Consider the following questions in your entry summary: (for guidelines, refer to entry requirements and criteria section on page 2)

1. **(10 points)** In what year was your company founded, and give a brief history.
2. **(30 points)** Describe how passion, creativity, perseverance, and/or vision contributed to your firm's success.
3. **(30 points)** Give examples of how initiative and willingness to take risks have contributed to your firm's success.
4. **(30 points)** Describe the innovative ideas, methods, products or services and how they differentiate your firm from its competitors?

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Drop off: at Chamber front desk

Questions? awards@garnerchamber.com

National Pawn Nonprofit Achievement Award Entry Form

Garner Chamber of Commerce Summit Awards 2016

Organization Info:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

This award recognizes nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated excellence by effectively addressing a problem within the community, and efficiently using available resources to achieve maximum positive impact.

Criteria:

- At least three full years of operation, beginning January 1, 2013
- Must be a not-for-profit organization with a clearly defined mission
- Organization must demonstrate community involvement and goodwill
- Business must demonstrate ideas that effectively addressed issues within the community that achieved maximum positive impact

Consider the following questions in your entry summary: (for guidelines, refer to entry requirements and criteria section on page 2)

1. **(10 points)** In what year was your nonprofit founded? Give a brief history and the mission of your organization.
2. **(30 points)** Describe how management practices at your nonprofit translated into effective results? How has your organization used its resources to creatively solve community challenges?
3. **(30 points)** Describe the financial management of your organization. How has your nonprofit demonstrated ethical fundraising? How have transparency and accountability been maximized?
4. **(30 points)** Describe how your nonprofit improves the life skills and quality of life of those being served by your nonprofit?

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