

GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL HYPE AWARDS

Miami, FL, March 30, 2010 -- HYPE Miami®, the young professionals committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, honored the winners of the inaugural HYPE Awards on Thursday, March 25 at Jungle Island. The awards luncheon recognized Miami-Dade's brightest young professionals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and innovation. Winners were announced in the following categories:

- **Entrepreneur Award -- Brian Rechtman**, is the president and founder of BlueTree Marketing & Bid2Care, a firm that specializes in online marketing and fundraising auctions for nonprofit organizations and businesses. His firm has worked with organizations of all sizes to help grow targeted traffic to websites nationwide.
- **Go Getter Award -- Estrellita Sibila, Esq.**, Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole and Boniske, LLP, is the first attorney in Miami-Dade County to obtain the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) credential. Ms. Sibila also helped establish the University of Miami of Law Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program which received recognition from both Equal Justice Works and the American Bar Association for assisting low-income residents of the City of Miami in tax preparation.
- **Difference Maker Award -- Michel Petit-Homme** is an HIV counselor for Care Resource and program coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami. Previously, Mr. Petit-homme worked as a community liaison and motivational speaker for the Non Violence Project, conducting assemblies at numerous Miami-Dade public schools, youth programs and jail facilities.
- **Rookie of the Year -- Eric F. Wenke** oversees special projects for growth and efficiency, leads environmental sustainability initiatives and has played a key role in award-winning "green" projects at Baptist Health South Florida. He is a founding board member of the nonprofit group, Dream in Green, which strives to promote environmental sustainability projects in South Florida schools.

- **Most Valuable Graduate (MVG) Award -- Arthur Meyer** is currently pursuing a Master's of Science Degree in Construction Management from Florida International University. He is an Eagle Scout and has served as student government president and vice president, Florida Student Association chair, Florida Board of Governors member, Florida International Board of Trustees member and FIU's Order of the Torch (Honorary Leadership Society) president.

Among the winners the Chamber also recognized the following finalists: Steven Balch, Trusted Alliance, LLC; Adam Bergman, MyLLCAgreement.com; Laura Brill, Partners for Youth with Disabilities; Michael Brodie, Aon Risk Services Inc., of Florida; Nicholas Gavronsky, CITI; Adrian Judson Khaw, MD, University of Miami; Frank J. Peña, The FJP Group; Gabrielle Rapke, CITI; Theresa Therilus, TGT Sports and Marketing; and Norie del Valle, United Way Miami-Dade.

The awards luncheon featured keynote speaker Nitin Motwani, principal and managing director, Miami Worldcenter Group; and was emceed by Lissette Gonzalez, weather anchor, CBS4. The HYPE awards were made possible by corporate sponsors: Ford Motor Company, Media Stage, Brian K. Video Productions, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and JBG Communications.

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About the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce is an association of businesses and professions organized to create economic progress in Miami-Dade County. To carry out its mission, the Chamber serves as the voice of business enterprise and involves the private sector in community leadership. For more than 100 years, the Chamber is widely recognized and respected for its extraordinary record of economic development and community improvement. The Greater Miami Chamber is an activist chamber. Its program of work is organized in five areas: Advocacy, Domestic Business Development, International Business Development, Leadership Programs and Marketing & Member Services. The Chamber has an award-winning website, www.MiamiChamber.com; holds the license to the Miami Free Trade Zone, Inc.; and is widely recognized as one of the Top 10 Executive Speaking Forums in America.

HYPE Miami® (Helping Young Professional Engage) is a committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. The committee was created to provide networking opportunities that connect young professionals with prominent business leaders throughout the Greater Miami community. Its mission is to facilitate business development opportunities among young professionals by providing the perfect environment to meet, exchange ideas, expand and/or learn about new business as well as proactively shape the future workforce of the region and build the next generation of leaders.