WORLD PAC PAPER

Press Release

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Edgar L. Smith, Jr. is Named 2010 Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

U.S. Small Business Administration Honors Small Business Person of the Year

CINCINNATI, OH May 20, 2010 –Edgar L. Smith, Jr. has been selected, by the Columbus District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) , as the 2010 Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Ohio and Region V of the United States, which covers Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Edgar L. Smith, Jr. of the Cincinnati, Ohio-based company World Pac Paper, LLC, was one of ten state and regional winners for the U.S. SBA Small Business Person of the Year, from around the nation in April, 2010. Thomas K. Mueller, District Director of the Small Business Administration Columbus District Office announced that 8 Ohio small business owners and small business advocates were recognized for their achievements as small business owners and champions occurred during the *Celebrating a Night of Excellence Small Business Ceremony* on May 19th, 2010 at the Pinnacle Golf Club, Grove City, OH. As the Ohio winner Edgar Smith will represent Ohio during the activities during National Small Business Week in Washington, DC May 23rd – 25th.

"I am proud to be in the position to fulfill my dream of becoming an entrepreneur and adding to the vitality and vibrancy of my community, state and country. This is a highly distinguished honor. Becoming the 'Small Business Person of the Year' for my great state of Ohio and Region V, is very significant to me, my company and the community in which we live and work" says Edgar Smith, founder and CEO of World Pac Paper, LLC. He goes on to say, "The U.S. small business engine moves our country forward. Winning such an honor not only spotlights me and our growing company, but also the importance of minority companies and their significant contributions to the economic recovery of our great nation. Minority businesses are a growing and vital force in the U.S. economy. We represent a fast growing segment of small businesses in the U.S. America's changing population and the current, and future, economic buying power of ethnic groups is tied to that growth."

Small business leadership through individual businesses, local Chambers of Commerce and state involvement is a part of the cornerstone for small business growth and advocacy. Edgar Smith serves as a Director and the Vice Chair, Small Business for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. This Chamber of Commerce is the nation's fifth largest Chamber, representing the interest of nearly 6,000 member businesses. "Edgar is an exceptional entrepreneur, an executive highly engaged in his community, and a shining example of how much a business can grow in a short period of time. He is certainly deserving of this recognition," says Ellen G. van der Horst, President and CEO, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

An advocate for entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurism, Edgar Smith has tied his mission of small business growth to positively impacting the greater Cincinnati community where his company is located. A staunch advocate for community, civic and non-profit organizations, he demonstrates leadership in helping such organizations and encouraging other small businesses to become involved within their community. "Edgar brought the same drive, ingenuity and passion to the Red Cross that he gives to his business – traits which make him successful in both arenas. He is a first class people-person who enjoys finding ways of productively collaborating with people of many perspectives and persuasions," states Sara Peller, CEO, American Red Cross-Cincinnati Area Chapter.

About World Pac Paper, LLC

World Pac Paper, LLC is an *Inc.* 500 company and award winning national distributor of high quality printing, packaging & specialty papers and packaging solutions incorporated in June 2004. World Pac Paper, LLC serves the Fortune 500/1000, commercial printers, catalogers, book and magazine publishers, integrated and independent corrugated converters, folding carton /rigid box manufacturers, tube winders, laminators, paper converters and the foodservice industry. World Pac Paper, LLC is a Certified Minority Enterprise (MBE).

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recognizes US small businesses and their advocates for their commitment and contribution to the small business community. The SBA was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. It recognizes that small business is critical to our economic recovery and strength, to building America's future, and to helping the United States compete in today's global marketplace. Although SBA has grown and evolved in the years since it was established in 1953, the bottom line mission remains the same. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U. S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Additionally SBA showcases the positive impact The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has had in Ohio and other American states.

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