



## WORLD PAC PAPER

### For Immediate Release Press Release

#### **African American Businessman Accept Top 2010 Small Business Awards**

WASHINGTON, DC & CINCINNATI, OHIO May 25, 2010. The U.S. Small Business Administration has named Edgar L. Smith, Jr., Founder, Chairman and CEO, of Cincinnati-based World Pac Paper, LLC the Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Ohio and the Midwest (Region V: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio) at the Washington, D.C., Oriental Mandarin Hotel on May 25, 2010 during National Small Business Week. Edgar Smith was honored by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony along with other small business owners from across the country. Simultaneously, in Cincinnati, Ohio Richard A. Baptiste, President and COO of World Pac Paper, LLC accepted the 2010 Small Business of the Year Award, for the company, from the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

The local Fort Washington, MD office of World Pac Paper, LLC is where it's President & COO, Richard A. Baptiste resides. This MBE Certified company is a reciprocal member of the Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. The company has earned the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's *Small Business of the Year for 2010*. This is the first year that World Pac Paper, LLC has been honored with this coveted distinction. A past winner of the *Emerging Business of the Year 2007* by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, the company was the *Runner-Up* in the category of *Minority Business of the Year in 2009*. Each year the Chamber reviews the best of the best small companies within the greater Cincinnati region. This year's Annual Small Business Excellence Award Finalists were judged in the areas of customer focus, company leadership & culture, strategic planning and sustainability and financial performance. The awards luncheon event was held at the Millennium Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, to a packed to capacity grand ballroom of business owners and business advocates, on May 25, 2010. The event, titled, *Celebrate the Power of Small Business Success* involved a networking reception, lunch and a motivating address by keynote speaker Michael Monahan, Executive Director of Life Success Seminars, Inc.

World Pac Paper, LLC was one of six finalists in the category of Small Business of the Year (1-50 employees). Richard A. Baptiste, President & COO of World Pac Paper, LLC was on hand, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to accept the award for the company, as the founder, Chairman & CEO, Edgar L. Smith, Jr. was in Washington, DC, during National Small Business Week, receiving congratulations and supportive remarks from President Obama at the White House Rose Garden with fellow state honorees as the Ohio State and Mid-West Region V winner of 2010 Small Business Person of the Year from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Meanwhile,

Mr. Baptiste, along with several World Pac Paper team members, and several valued customers participated in the separate Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce awards luncheon. "Receiving multiple significant small business awards on the same day, in different cities, on both national and local levels is exceptional. We truly appreciate it and are most humbled by the recognition. World Pac Paper is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of operation and during that time we have strived to be focused on our customers' needs and requirements, while enabling our people to grow and expand their abilities, thus building our organization, ultimately helping us achieve such recognitions" say Edgar L. Smith, Jr. Founder, Chairman & CEO of World Pac Paper, LLC. "I have worked diligently to build a results oriented and entrepreneurial-minded organization of industry experienced professionals, all working hard to help World Pac Paper realize our full potential.

The World Pac Paper CEO goes on to say, "we are on track to fulfill my vision for this company to continue our growth, gaining new customers and providing the right competitive product mix and exceptional customer service." Richard Baptiste added "Small businesses are the fuel for economic growth and the catalyst for innovation. Long live small business!" This enthusiasm was shared by all in attendance and further acknowledged the importance of small business for local and national economic growth through the creation of new jobs and innovation of products and services.

### **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.

### **About 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. An award-winning membership organization, the Chamber has been recognized as national Chamber of the Year twice in the past decade. It supports members and the Cincinnati USA region in pursuit of success in today's global economy.

The Chamber provides numerous services, including business retention and attraction, programs and events, member benefits to improve members' bottom line, solutions to members' workforce challenges, government advocacy, and more to create and sustain a positive business climate for our community, including demonstrating a commitment to small business assistance and economic inclusion.

The Chamber's talented, professional staff of 75 people works with thousands of engaged member companies, volunteers and partners in an effort to create and sustain a dynamic Cincinnati USA, a region of 15 counties located in three states. The Chamber's member businesses and organizations represent approximately 350,000 employees throughout southwestern Ohio, northern Kentucky and southeastern Indiana.

#### **For additional information, please contact:**

Marie Diuquid

World Pac Paper, LLC

Tele: (513) 658-9500

Fax: (513) 362-2736

Email: [mduquid@worldpacpaper.com](mailto:mduquid@worldpacpaper.com)

**Corresponding Photos:**



May 25, 2010 Cincinnati, OH: World Pac Paper, LLC: *2010 Small Business of the Year Award* by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber in Cincinnati, Ohio

Pictured are: **Kay Geiger**, President, PNC Bank, Ohio & Northern Kentucky Regions **Richard A. Baptiste**, President & COO, World Pac Paper, LLC and John Bosse, Vice President, Small Business- Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber



*Risdon Photography*

May 25, 2010 Washington, DC: Edgar L. Smith, Jr., receives *2010 Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Ohio and Region V* from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Pictured are: **Karen Mills**, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration and **Edgar L. Smith, Jr.** Founder, Chairman & CEO, World Pac Paper, LLC