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World Pac Paper, LLC among ICIC and *Fortune Magazine's* Inner City 100 winners *Annual ranking showcases the 100 fastest-growing urban businesses in America*

Boston, MA (May 2012) – Cincinnati, OH based, World Pac Paper, LLC has earned a position (#78) as one of the fastest-growing inner city companies in the U.S. by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and *Fortune Magazine*. The Inner City 100 program recognizes successful inner city companies and their CEO's as role models for entrepreneurship, innovative business practices and job creation in America's urban communities. World Pac Paper, LLC has been recognized for entrepreneurial business achievements and community involvement since its inception. World Pac Paper, LLC was one of three Ohio based companies to be named to the list.

The rankings for each company were announced at the Inner City 100 awards on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 in Boston, MA. Company Chairman & CEO, Edgar L. Smith, Jr. and President & COO Richard A. Baptiste participated in the events associated with the awards. Winners attended a two-day small business symposium featuring executive education case studies and how-to workshops from leading content providers, including Harvard Business School, Babson College, Boston University, Next Street and R/GA.

The Inner City 100 list provides unmatched original data on the fastest growing inner city businesses in the U.S. In the last 14 years, 720 different companies have earned positions on the Inner City 100, collectively, generating more than \$2.2 billion in annual revenues and creating nearly 73,000 new jobs. Chevron Corporation, Staples and Goldman Sachs are long-time sponsors of the program.

For the 2012 list, winners represent a wide span of geography, operating in 46 cities and 30 states. The 2012 Inner City 100 winners grew at a compound annual growth rate of 40 percent and an average standard growth rate of 577 percent between 2006 and 2010. Collectively the top 100 inner city businesses employ 7,965 employees and have created more than 4,635 new jobs between 2006 and 2010. Not only are they powerful job creators in their communities, but they also treat their employees well – a stunning 93% of the list provide health insurance.

"We are delighted to celebrate businesses like World Pac Paper, LLC that are playing a critical role in revitalizing communities across the country. Through their achievements, the Inner City 100 winners exemplify America's remarkable potential and the future of our urban centers," said Mary Kay Leonard, ICIC President and CEO. "These extraordinary companies demonstrate the market potential that exists within our inner cities and the growth that is at the heart of all urban entrepreneurial successes."

The list is proof of the concept that doing business in an inner city holds a distinct competitive advantage. ICIC has been studying the economic condition of the largest 100 American cities for more than a decade and is working to revitalize inner cities across the country.

Highlights of the 2012 Inner City 100 include:

- Employ 7,965 workers and have created 4,635 new jobs in the last five years
- 25% are women-owned. Nationally, only 10% of companies with over \$41 million in annual revenues are women-owned.
- Companies generated \$15.3 million in revenues on average and \$1.5 billion in the aggregate.
- 36% are minority-owned. Nationally, only 21% of all companies are headed by minorities.
- 4% of their workers are inner city residents.

“The achievements of these various ICIC 100 companies, owners and CEO’s are critical to the growth and contributions of this country’s legacy of small business and entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs and small business owners build companies that create jobs, innovative products and services, export trade, and tax revenues of the future. Entrepreneurs and growing businesses are at the heart of the free enterprise system and the backbone of the U.S. economy.” said Edgar L. Smith, Jr., the World Pac Paper, LLC CEO

“The Inner City 100 provides us with a national platform from which we are able to connect with some of the most prolific minds in business strategies,” says Edgar L. Smith, Jr. “Hearing and learning from business scholars like Michael E. Porter, (*Harvard Business School Professor, a leading authority on competitive strategy, the competitiveness and economic development of nations, states and regions and the application of competitive principles to social problems such as health care, the environment and corporate responsibility*) is an integral part of being named to this prestigious group. The value of exposure to the Harvard School of Business provides an advantage to any business present to receive the information.” He also says “World Pac Paper, LLC is proud to proactively serve our fine customers from our Cincinnati-based headquarters. We work diligently to be innovative and to provide quality service to each of them.”

“This is a true honor. We are extremely proud to be a part of a program that recognizes the positive impact that companies from many different industries have on their communities,” says Richard A. Baptiste. He also noted, “Individually, we make an impact. Collectively we create a better future!”

About World Pac Paper, LLC

World Pac Paper, LLC is an award winning national distributor of high quality printing and packaging papers serving the Fortune 500/1000, commercial printers, catalogers, book and magazine publishers, integrated and independent corrugated converters, folding carton/rigid box manufacturers, tube winders, laminators and paper converters, and the foodservice industry.

About the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

ICIC is a non-profit research and strategy organization and the leading authority on U.S. inner city economies and the businesses that thrive there. Founded in 1994 by Harvard Business School Professor Michael Porter, ICIC expands inner city economies by providing businesses, governments and investors with the most comprehensive and actionable information in the field about urban market opportunities. ICIC's unique knowledge and expertise about inner city success factors and thriving companies is developed from specialized urban networks and path-breaking research.

ICIC's mission is to promote prosperity in America's inner cities through private sector engagement that leads to jobs, income and wealth creation for local residents.

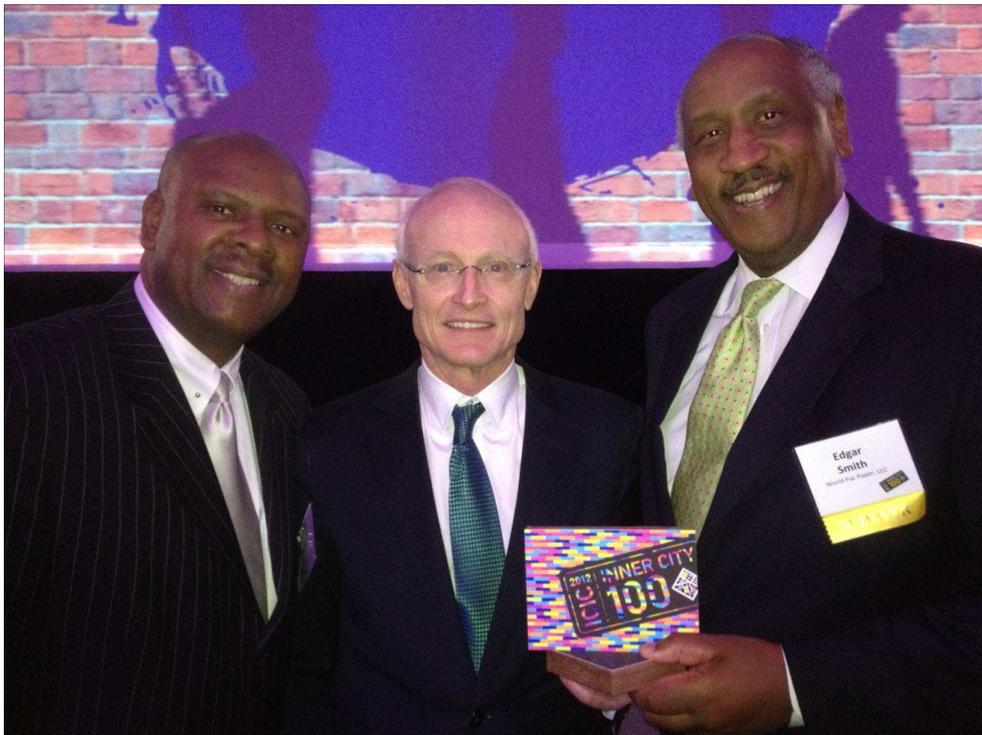
The complete list of winning companies can be viewed at *Fortune.com*.

World Pac Paper Contact Information

For more information about World Pac Paper, LLC and its extensive paper and paperboard products and solutions, call 1-877-83Paper or visit www.worldpacpaper.com

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