



**PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK  
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS  
2003-2018**

**2018**

Innovator of the Year: Jen Perry, Jelt Belt  
Entrepreneur(s) of the Year: Matt Brailsford, Beartooth Vanworks  
WBC Award of Excellence: Ris Higgins, Leadership Outfitters  
Economic Leadership Award: Folkvord Family  
Business of the Year: Mystery Ranch

**2017**

Innovator of the Year: Blackmore Sensors & Analytics  
Entrepreneur(s) of the Year: Jessica Dehn, Dino Drop-In  
WBC Business of the Year: Marley McKenna, Taco del Sol  
Economic Leadership Award: Bob Hietala, Gallatin College  
Business of the Year: Foundant Tech

**2016**

Innovator of the Year: Salient Technologies, Inc.  
Entrepreneur(s) of the Year: Serena Rundberg, Inspired Madness Inc.  
WBC Start-Up of the Year: Darcy Cook, Granite Sports Medicine  
Economic Leadership Award: Larry Johnson, MPIA  
Business of the Year: West Paw Design

**2015**

Innovator of the Year: DropTrip  
Entrepreneur(s) of the Year: Chris Murphy & Kina Pickett, Helio & Company, LLC  
Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Brie Thompson, Olivelle  
Economic Leadership Award: David Kack, HRDC Board of Directors  
Business of the Year: Universal Athletic Service

**2014**

Innovator of the Year: Ehson Mosleh, 406 Aerospace  
Entrepreneur(s) of the Year: Jon Slye & Jay Thane, Copper Whiskey Bar & Grill  
Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Noelle Kehoe, The Daily Coffee Bar  
Economic Leadership Award: Rebecca Mahurin, MSU Technology Transfer Office  
Business of the Year: Gibson Brands Inc., Acoustic Division

**2013**

Innovator of the Year Award: Bryan Robertus, Advanced Electronic Designs  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Andrew Hull, Elixiter  
Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Babs Noelle, Alara Jewelry  
Economic Leadership Award: Bill Berg, Greater Gardner Community Council  
Business of the Year: Community Food Co-op



## 2012

Innovation Award: TEXbase  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Tyler Jarosz, Twenty6 Products  
Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Robin Bequet, Bequet Confections  
Economic Leadership Award: Brit Fontenot, City of Bozeman  
Business of the Year: BLACKHAWK!

## 2011

Innovation Award: Mystery Ranch  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Will Ritter, Spark R&D  
Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Robyn Erlenbush  
Economic Leadership Award: Dr. Swearingen  
Business of the Year: RightNow Technologies

## 2010

Innovation Award: Pete Roos, Bridger Photonics  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Scott Johnson, Sustainable Oils  
Woman Entrepreneur of the Year: Tiffany Lach, Sola Café  
Economic Leadership Award: Mike Hope, Rockin' R Bar & Ferraro's  
Business of the Year: BioScience Laboratories

## 2009

Innovation Award: Natural Baby Company, Kim Ormsby  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Autopilot, Matt McCune  
Economic Leadership Award: Chris Naumann, Downtown Bozeman Partnership  
Business of the Year: Simms Fishing Products

## 2008

Innovation Award: Cleanwaste  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Jeff & Suzie Turczyn, Lone Mountain Gymnastics  
Economic Leadership Award: Steve Holland, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center  
Business of the Year: Zoot Enterprises

## 2007

Innovation Award: Dr. Joseph Sofianek, Medical Associates, PC  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Spencer Williams, West Paw Design  
Economic Leadership Award: Tom McCoy, Montana State University  
Business of the Year: Bozeman Deaconess Hospital

## 2006

Innovation Award: LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Mike Yinger, Elk River Systems, Inc.  
Start-up Business of the Year: The Gourmet Cellar  
Business of the Year: Sweet Pea Landscaping, Inc.



## **2005**

Innovation Award:

Dobeck Performance

Entrepreneur of the Year:

McKinnon Baxter, President and Founder, Zearth.com

Start-up Business of the Year:

Bequet Confections

Business of the Year:

Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply

## **2004**

Innovation Award:

Bacterin, Inc.

Entrepreneur of the Year:

Larry Johnson, President and CEO, ILX Lightwave Corp

Start-up Business of the Year:

Little Apple Technologies, Inc.

Small Business of the Year:

Schnee's Boots & Shoes

## **2003**

Innovation Award:

Strategix ID

Entrepreneur of the Year:

Greg Gianforte, Founder & CEO, RightNow Technologies

Start-up Business of the Year:

Amaltheia Dairy LLC

Small Business of the Year:

Sound to Earth