



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Business Stars Shine During the Day at the Houston West Chamber of Commerce  
11th Annual Economic Development Summit/Star Awards Luncheon**

**HOUSTON** (February 20, 2009) – Community and business leaders – 600 in all – attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic Development Summit and Star Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Houston West Chamber of Commerce on February 20, 2009. Mike Inselman of Metrostudy (president/co-founder) was the keynote speaker, while FOX26 Morning News Anchor, Pattie Shieh, served as emcee of the event.

“The West Houston area is home to many businesses that provide exceptional service and quality products, and we are thrilled to be able to recognize companies that have reached their goals both in business and community service,” said Jeannie Bollinger, president of the Houston West Chamber of Commerce. “The Star Awards is one way these outstanding companies are being acknowledged as Leaders in West Houston in terms of economic growth and impact as well as community involvement.”

The selection of the winner in each category was based upon overall business performance and contributions to the West Houston community during the past year. Criteria taken into consideration include number of employees added, revenue increases and support of the community through donations of time and/or money.

The Pillar Award was given to *Granite Properties*. This award is presented to the business that is deemed most successful in representing the spirit of West Houston and the Houston West Chamber of Commerce and is not awarded every year.

This year's winner in the Newly Opened or Relocated category was ***Danny Nguyen Commercial***. Named as winners in the Existing Business Category were ***Aptia Systems Inc., Westpark Communications, L.P.*** and ***West Houston Medical Center***. Honorable mention was given to ***Amegy Bank of Texas***. The Star Award for the non-profit category was given to ***ChildBuilders***.

The Houston West Chamber of Commerce is a business advocacy organization dedicated to enhancing the economic growth and vitality of the West Houston business community through leadership and business development. The Chamber currently has more than 500 business members representing 43,000 employees. For more information about the Chamber and its programs, please call 713.785.4922 or visit [www.hwcoc.org](http://www.hwcoc.org).

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