



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Alliance Honors Business Leaders at Annual Meeting**

Portland, Ore. – Today, in a ballroom packed with about 1,000 Portland business and civic leaders, the Portland Business Alliance recognized the hard work of individuals who have served as advocates on a number of community and business issues. The meeting also included a keynote address by **ESCO Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Steve Pratt** who discussed the Portland region’s growing impact on business practices around the world.

“There are many challenges we here in Portland and Oregon are actively addressing and are uniquely positioned to help answer for our trading partners abroad,” said Steve Pratt. “Through our knowledge of lean, waste-reducing manufacturing principles; our expertise in sustainable growth that reduces our carbon footprint; and our practices that emphasize employee participation and well being.”

A number of other businesses with international reach and influence were highlighted as part of the Alliance’s *Distinguishing Portland* initiative. Companies shared their “global visions” and how Portland values and practices are being spread around the globe in a new video. (hyperlink to video)

The morning event also recognized area business leaders. **Jackie Babicky-Peterson** received the new President’s Award. Jackie was the first woman to chair the chamber (1994-1995) and is a long-time advocate of small business. The Alliance also honored the efforts of other business leaders who have worked tirelessly on a number of community and business issues. A full list is below.

“The President’s award gives special recognition to an individual who year after year has supported the work of the Alliance on behalf of business in our region,” said Sandra McDonough, President and CEO of the Alliance. “Her work through her years with the Alliance and now at the Small Business Development Center helps Portland businesses achieve their goals, and helps ensure that we will continue to have a thriving small business community.”

Other award recipients were recognized for their work on a number of issues.

**Public safety:**

Vanessa Sturgeon, TMT Development

**Columbia River Crossing project:**

Grant Armbruster, Columbia Sportswear  
Rich Brown, Bank of America

Monica Isbel, Starboard Alliance Company

**Urban Renewal issues:**

Eric Steinmeyer, Security Title Guaranty Company

Chris Kopca, City Center Parking

**Member recruitment:**

Ron Rentfrow

**Communications:**

Aili Jokela, Fleishman Hillard

**Event support and professional development:**

Bill Dolan, Spirit Media

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*The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce representing more than 1,300 businesses in the region. The Alliance focuses on central city and regional issues and recognizes that the vitality of the central city and the region depend on one another, and Portland's vibrant, growing downtown is a regional asset. Visit [www.portlandalliance.com](http://www.portlandalliance.com) for more information.*