

# EdgeBusiness awards honor firms, leaders

By Janet Rorholm  
The Gazette

Five Corridor businesses and one Cedar Rapids businessman took home awards at The EdgeBusiness Magazine's Edge of Excellence Awards luncheon Tuesday.

Geonetric, Cedar Rapids, was named Best Place to Work for businesses under 250 employees. GreatAmerica Leasing Corp., Cedar Rapids, was named Best Place to Work for businesses with more than 250 employees.

Geonetric, founded in 1999, more than doubled its number of employees last year, but it hasn't let all that work get in the way of having fun. Employees cite the busy, challenging environment at Geonetric as well as the dedicated, casual and fun atmosphere and friendly co-workers as factors making it a great place to work.

Employees at GreatAmerica Leasing, a financial services company, credit a positive, caring, family-friendly culture that emphasizes teamwork for the company's success and its high retention rate.

Telesales and marketing company TMone, Iowa City, received the business growth award for businesses with less than 250 employees. RuffaloCODY, Cedar Rapids, received the Business Growth Award for businesses with more than 250 employees.

Sales at the 4-year-old TMone grew about 54 percent in 2006 and staff grew 56 percent during that time. RuffaloCODY's sales grew 28 percent in 2006 and its staff grew 16 percent.

Farmers State Bank received the Community Service Award. The 80-year-old bank contributes more than \$100,000 a year to more than 75 local charities. The company also encourages employees to volunteer.

Doug Neighbor, CEO of Farmers State, credits the



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Al Ruffalo, CEO of RuffaloCODY, accepts the award for business leader of the year Tuesday at The Edge of Excellence 2007 Annual Business Awards luncheon at the Cedar Rapids Marriott.

philanthropic culture at the bank to his father, Morris, who is the company's chairman.

Al Ruffalo, CEO of RuffaloCODY, was the first individual to receive The Business Leader of the Year Award by the best practice magazine. The award recognized Ruffalo's history of exemplifying leadership in both business and in the community. His colleagues praise Ruffalo for his entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to mentoring others and charitable giving.

Previous Edge of Excellence Award winners are Rockwell Collins, Banker's Trust, Genencor International, GE Commercial Financial, Iowa State Bank and Trust Co., University Hospitals, Clifton Gundersen, Marketing Communications Strategies, Kirkwood Community College and Shuttleworth & Ingersoll.

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