

An Orange County Business Journal Special Report & Custom Content

Excellence in ENTREPRENEURSHIP Awards

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL A-57

2019 EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD NOMINEES

recession across the United States from 2008-12, Salas O'Brien had only one year with billings less than the previous year. Anderson led the first successful merger in 2012, bringing on additional business units in Northern California and Seattle. He retained the original leadership of the acquired firms in order to maintain a local, entrepreneurial focus while creating a national presence. Since then, he has expanded that national presence through eight additional mergers, resulting in the growth of the firm to 19 offices, more than 110 registered professionals, and more than 550 employees. In 2016, Salas O'Brien converted to an ESOP, fulfilling the vision that Anderson and partners had shared for the company since 2006. At nearly \$100 million in annual revenue and more than \$3.5 billion in construction volume, Salas O'Brien continues to grow and flourish under Anderson's leadership.



Service Champions Heating & Air Conditioning, Brea Leland Smith, Owner

Service Champions Heating & Air Conditioning was founded by Leland Smith in March of 2000, with one goal in mind: to provide homeowners a service that is beyond their expectations by developing technicians into being true champions of service. Smith started the company with just himself in the office and six technicians in the field. Service Champions now has over 200 employees. Service Champions is Southern California's best heating & air conditioning company. They service, repair, and install all kinds and brands of heaters and air conditioners. Service Champions is the only Southern California HVAC contractor to have earned the prestigious Diamond Certified Award. Service Champions has earned the Diamond Certified Award for eight consecutive years. The honor was given to them for exceeding the rigorous standards for client satisfaction and performance.



Sessions West Coast Deli, Newport Beach Max Schlutz, Executive Chef/Partner

As the executive chef & partner of Sessions West Coast Deli with locations in Newport Beach, Huntington Beach and Irvine, Chef Max Schlutz presents a menu of gourmet, culinary-focused sandwiches in a relaxed environment. Unlike most sandwich shops in the region, Sessions proudly boasts a scratch kitchen with housemade sauces, sides, salads, and soups prepared daily. All sandwiches are made to order with fresh, locally grown produce; humanely and naturally raised meats; and locally baked bread delivered daily from a local artisan, OC Baking Company. Along with his two partners, Schlutz will be leading the restaurant as it continues to expand to new locations. Schlutz has created a critically acclaimed menu that has gained serious traction in the OC community. Sessions is poised for growth in 2019, with two locations currently in development.



Shine Illumination, San Juan Capistrano Bruce Brenon, Founder/CEO

Bruce Brenon is a natural born entrepreneur who is dedicated to creating memorable experiences that attract crowds to public spaces. He started his first business (a lawn mowing service) at a young age in his Missouri hometown. That grew into a thriving landscaping business to eventually include holiday decorating for clients' homes and commercial properties. In 2006 he ventured to California and founded Shine Illumination. Brenon's client base in SoCal grew from a few HOAs and private homes to major retail, harbor and hotel properties requesting holiday and event installations to attract thousands of experience seekers nightly. Today, Brenon and his team of 25 designers, fabricators, installation crews and project managers create legacy experiences and iconic destinations – such as Dana Point Harbor's #HappyHarborDays and the Merry Kiss Me installation that has gone viral on Instagram. Dana Point is going into its fifth year of bringing people together and helping businesses thrive in otherwise slow winter months.



Ship & Shore Environmental, Inc., Signal Hill Anoosheh Oskouian, President/CEO

As the pollution abatement industry's only female CEO, Anoosheh Oskouian is unique within the environmental sector. She has nearly two decades of experience in industrial and commercial project construction of a wide range of air design and fabricating combustion equipment including thermal oxidizers, catalytic oxidizers, boilers, burners, carbon, and zeolite absorption mechanisms. During her career, Oskouian has mastered air pollution abatement, waste heat recovery, energy consumption reduction and fabrication of integrated green solutions. Most recently, she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations-NECO in New York (May 2015) and was named Sustainability Committee Chair by the FTA (Flexographic Technical Association). Oskouian's in-depth process knowledge and expertise provide the foundation for designing superior, innovative and efficient equipment, along with reliable technologies that help clients collect and reduce and/or eliminate air pollution emissions within environmentally acceptable guidelines. Under her leadership, Ship & Shore Environmental has grown 57 percent over the last six years.



Sparkhouse, Irvine Torrey Tayenaka, Founder

From founding his first production startup in high school to his multi-faceted role as CEO of Sparkhouse today, Torrey Tayenaka is an acclaimed force in high-concept, branded video production and serial entrepreneurship. Fueled by a strong desire to pay it forward, Tayenaka has his hands in a wide range of pursuits – environmental, technological, medical and charitable – that prevent him from being pigeonholed. At any given time, he may play the role of inventor, producer or promoter, designing and developing projects he believes have the potential to change the world in their own way. As the success of his creative ventures continues to rise, Tayenaka has become a sought-after consultant and speaker, devoting countless hours to helping others bridge the gap between dreaming and doing by sharing his strategies for startup success and creative resourcing. Sparkhouse is a videographer agency that combines video production and strategic marketing company.



Sterling Public Relations, Corona del Mar Paula Steurer, President

Sterling Public Relations, Inc. was founded in 2008 as a Publicity, Branding and Marketing hybrid by entrepreneur Paula Steurer. Committed to her clientele and their diverse brands, Steurer's innovative vision, strategic approach, and tenured industry relationships have played a vital role in propelling each company to the forefront of their respective industries. With a passion for building brand identities and her innate ability to connect, engage and drive brands to the next level, Steurer has become a trusted authority among entrepreneurs and executives. She has been selected as a keynote speaker and workshop leader by nationally recognized brands such as Mindbody Inc, Vizio, and Oracle to educate a variety of generations on how to design, implement and execute top-notch PR and marketing initiatives that drive results. Through her leadership, Sterling Public Relations has become the in-demand firm for brands throughout California and North Texas who desire a competitive edge.



Synoptek Inc., Irvine Tim Britt, CEO

Founder and CEO of Synoptek and entrepreneur at heart, Tim Britt provides management consulting, including IT strategy and implementation leadership to companies that leverage technology to win – a mission he's been on for more than 20 years. In response to the growing need for high-value consulting and IT managed services, Tim Britt opened Synoptek's doors 15 years ago. Today, with 500-plus employees and an exceptionally high bar raised when it comes

