

## R. Clay Simmons Exemplary Enterprise Award

Please note that nominations must be received by December 28, 2018 to be considered.

### Purpose

R. Clay Simmons was an example of the finest in community and business leadership. The R. Clay Simmons Exemplary Enterprise Award will recognize a firm that has made outstanding contributions to the community and has manifested superior business practices.

This award, which was first awarded in 1995, will be given annually to a business firm in the greater Starkville area by the R. Clay Simmons Foundation through the Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce. Firms eligible for the award must be for-profit and may be any size.

### Past Award Recipients

1995 Mullins Department Store	2007 T. E. Lott and Company
1996 Millsaps Chevrolet - Pontiac - Buick - GMC	2008 Thomas Shelton Jones and Associates
1997 C. C. Clark, Inc.	2009 Prudential Starkville Properties
1998 National Bank of Commerce	2010 Metrocast
1999 Sullivan's Office Supply	2011 Tabor Construction & Development
2000 VanLandingham Lumber Company	2012 BancorpSouth
2001 Robin Fant, Bulldog Deli	2013 Cadence Bank
2002 John Robert Arnold	2014 Mark Castelberry/Castle Properties
2003 Coldwell Banker SRE Realtors	2015 Eat With Us Group
2004 East Mississippi Lumber Company	2016 Eat Local Starkville
2005 The Book Mart	2017 Renasant Bank
2006 Bell Building Supply	

### Criteria for Selection

The following criteria should be addressed as the application is prepared. These criteria are not all-inclusive; additional ones may be utilized by applicant firms and by selection groups. Selection groups will determine the weight to be assigned to each of the criteria utilized.

#### I. CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- a. Participation by the firm in community advancement activities.  
**EXAMPLES:** sponsorship of events, awards, teams, etc.; contributions (cash, in-kind, services, advertisements, etc.) to civic and religious organizations and activities; provision of employees for community advancement organizations and activities, such as the United Way "Loaned Executive" program.
- b. Participation by owners and employees in civic and religious organizations and activities.  
**EXAMPLES:** contributions of employees (cash, in-kind, services) to these organizations, including percentage of employees giving to United Way; leadership posts and memberships in civic and religious organizations.

#### 2. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

- a. Involvement by the firm in institutions, organizations, and activities devoted to advancing education on all levels and in all areas of the community.  
**EXAMPLES:** sponsorship of schools, institutions, agencies, organizations, awards, teams, scholarships, loan programs, and other activities; contributions (cash, in-kind, services, advertisements, etc.) To these organizations and activities; cooperative activities through internships, apprenticeships, providing teachers, etc.
- b. Involvement by owners and employees in institutions, organizations, and activities devoted to advancing education in the community.  
**EXAMPLES:** contributions (cash, in-kind, services) to institutions, organizations, and activities devoted to education; leadership posts and memberships by owners and employees in these organizations; cooperative activities such as teaching in or supervision internship and apprenticeship programs.

#### 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a. Participation by the firm in economic development activities.  
**EXAMPLES:** membership in Chamber of Commerce and other economic development organizations; contributions (cash, in-kind, services) to economic development organizations and activities; involvement in visits by prospects to Starkville and in trips to other locales to promote economic development of the greater Starkville areas.

- b. Creation of new jobs in the community.  
*EXAMPLES: development of new jobs in the firm; stimulation of new jobs in other firms such as suppliers.*
- c. Expansion in production or services output and additions of capital facilities and equipment.  
*EXAMPLES: sizable increases in dollar amounts or quantities of goods produced or services; construction of new facilities; installation of new machinery, equipment, systems, and technologies.*
- d. Participation by owners and employees in economic development activities.  
*EXAMPLES: memberships by owners and employees in economic development organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce; service by owners and employees on the Board, in leadership positions, and on committees of the Chamber; involvement by the owners and employees of visits of prospects to Starkville and trips to other locales to promote the economic development of the Starkville area.*

#### **4. BUSINESS PRACTICES**

- a. Extent of development of sound management and marketing practices.  
*EXAMPLES: efforts to maximize employee participation in decision-making; degree of stress on customer satisfaction.*
- b. Innovativeness and creativity.  
*EXAMPLES: adoption of new technologies and systems; invention of new products, technologies, systems, equipment, or tools; development of new marketing strategies or service-delivery systems.*
- c. Awards and recognition's to the firm or to owners or employees.  
*EXAMPLES: presentations of awards for achievement to owners or employees by local, state, regional, national, or international organizations; service in leadership positions in these types of organizations by owners and employees; publication in trade journals or other printed media and in the electronic media of articles or other recognitions.*

#### **Selection of Award Winner**

The GSDP will review the applicants and select the winner. The award will be presented at the annual banquet of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership on January 29, 2019.

#### **Nomination**

Letters of nomination may be submitted by a business firm or other individual. Submit a letter outlining required criteria. Please include the name of the firm nominated, chief executive, address, phone number, as well as the name and signature of individual submitting nomination.

**Submit nominations along with a minimum of 15 pictures of the nominee throughout the existence of their business of career to the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, 200 E. Main Street, Starkville, MS 39759; by fax to 662-323-5815; or by e-mail to [jprather@starkville.org](mailto:jprather@starkville.org). Photographs will be used in a video presented at the GSDP Annual Banquet to honor the award winner and will not be returned.**

**Applications must be returned by December 28, 2018 to:**

**Greater Starkville Development Partnership  
ATTN: Clay Simmons Exemplary Enterprise Award  
200 East Main Street  
Starkville, MS 39759  
Fax: 662-323-5815  
E-mail: [jprather@starkville.org](mailto:jprather@starkville.org)**