

Chamber Recognizes Business Excellence

Sarnia-Lambton business leaders were recognized during Friday's annual Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Achievement awards. The event highlighted business excellence the community can be proud of, said Jane Bearisto, Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce events co-coordinator. More than 450 people attended the evening event where 13 winners from the 83 nominees were announced. Lambton College was a double winner as college president Tony Hanlon was chosen by the judging team in the business leadership category and the college won the marketing category. "It was a big day," said Cindy Buchanan, college marketing director. A business born on a golf course was selected as Business of the Year in the small business category. In Motion: Health-Wellness-Fitness partners Luke Winegard and Dr. Brendan Carney Kilian were completing their chiropractic education when they started talking about the future while playing golf. The conversation led to a 100-page business plan combining healthcare and personal training services under one roof. A bank supported their plan and it was launched in January 2007. At a Lambton Mall Road location their clients can access the services of chiropractors, massage therapists, a dietitian, personal trainers and other professionals. They have six employees but also provide access to the services of 15 independent contractors. Neither man was from Sarnia but family connections pulled them here. They had seen similar plans work in major centres and were confident a good idea would be supported in a smaller community. Their business has grown steadily from a small client base and the expansion is not finished. "With lots of hard work and planning we have weathered the storm," said Winegard. Customer service accounts for the success. Ninety per cent of clients have been referred by other clients, said Winegard.

Brendan Carney Kilian, left, and Luke Winegard took home top honours as Small Business of the Year at the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Business Awards Friday night. The partners own In Motion: Health-Wellness-Fitness. A dozen other businesses, non-profits and local leaders were recognized at the annual awards gala.

