

For Immediate Release, with photo, nominations open through Aug. 25

Contact: Lorri Feldt, Regional Director
Northwest ISBDC
219-644-3515
lfeldt@isbdc.org

Nominations open to mark 35 years of E-Day

Crown Point – The Northwest ISBDC is seeking nominations for the 35th Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards to celebrate honorees igniting entrepreneurial energy.

The Northwest ISBDC team is seeking nominations through Tuesday Aug. 25, 2026, for the 2026 E-Day Awards, which put small business leaders driving momentum in the spotlight.

“Our team is honored to carry on the tradition of celebrating entrepreneurs and advocates for 35 years,” said NW-ISBDC Regional Director Lorri Feldt. “Their stories and paths to business ownership are always inspirational and we look forward to welcoming our next class of honorees.”

Nomination packets and online forms are being accepted through Tuesday Aug. 25, 2026, and are available by visiting www.edayleaders.com or by emailing the Northwest ISBDC at northwest@isbdc.org.

Award categories include: small business person of the year, entrepreneurial success, small business exporter, young entrepreneur, veteran-owned small business, family-owned business, emerging small business, small business advocate and advocate for youth entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurs with a three-year track record and great growth potential in the seven-county Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center area of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Jasper, Starke, Pulaski and Newton counties are eligible. The nomination process is open to the public.

Winners will be celebrated on Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville. E-Day tickets will be available at www.edayleaders.com/event. Sponsorship opportunities are also available at www.edayleaders.com/sponsorships.

Serving seven counties in the region, the Northwest ISBDC offers no-cost assistance for entrepreneurs starting or expanding their businesses. Through one-on-one consulting, the NW-ISBDC helps guide small businesses toward their goals by offering referrals, workshops, training opportunities and other essential business tools. It is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Small Business Administration, the State of Indiana and other local partners.

For more information, visit www.isbdc.org.

With photo: Lifetime Achievement honoree Ross Pangere speaks to the E-Day crowd at the 2025 luncheon event.

