



NEWS

Successful business growth through education, programs and relationships.

For Immediate Release

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ACG Cincinnati announces winners of 2009 Deal Maker Awards presented by Huntington Bank

April 16, 2009 – CINCINNATI, OH – John Barrett, CEO, Western & Southern Financial Group is the designated recipient of the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth as part of its annual Deal Maker Awards Program.

Six other Cincinnati businesses and business leaders will also receive recognition at the ACG Cincinnati Deal Maker Awards Dinner on May 7th at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati.

The 2009 Financier / Service Provider category award will be presented to Queen City Angels, the highly respected group of experienced, accredited investors committed to accelerating the growth of outstanding early-stage businesses in the Cincinnati area and the surrounding region.

Businesses recognized with Corporate Deal Maker Awards are The Midland Company, General Cable Corporation, FirstGroup America, Neace Lukens, and BlueStar.

The Deal Maker Awards are presented annually by ACG Cincinnati to recognize significant achievements of local companies, entrepreneurs and financiers who participate in merger and acquisition activity in Greater Cincinnati. Award winners are "Deal Makers" who have been inspirational, visionary, creative, tenacious and persistent in their efforts to complete acquisition, joint venture, financing and strategic alliance transactions.

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Lifetime Achievement Award honoree John Barrett is one of Ohio's most determined supporters of economic development, education and fine arts. He is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Western & Southern Financial Group®, a Fortune 500 company. He serves on the boards of directors of Convergys Corporation and Fifth Third Bancorp. He also serves on the boards of trustees of The Cincinnati Arts Association, The Cincinnati Art Museum (Chairman), Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts and Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation.

The 2009 Financier / Service Provider Award winner Queen City Angels include a substantial number of business leaders from the region, counting many former CEOs and founders of successful companies as investors. QCA members are eager to apply their talent and expertise to mentoring and coaching as well as to funding the right ventures and have long been respected for their efforts in helping to finance local business projects that may have difficulty finding financing elsewhere.

Corporate Award winner FirstGroup America is the leader in safe, reliable, sustainable transportation and is the largest provider of surface transportation services in North America. The company owns and/or operates over 70,000 school and transit buses, and maintains many more vehicles in over 1100 locations in the United States and Canada.

General Cable Corporation, an ACG Cincinnati Corporate Deal Maker recipient this year, is headquartered in Highland Heights, Kentucky, and is a leader in the development, design, manufacture, marketing and distribution of copper, aluminum and fiber optic wire and cable products for the energy, industrial, specialty and communications markets. The Company offers competitive strengths in such areas as breadth of product line, brand recognition, distribution and logistics, sales and service, and operating efficiency.

The Midland Company, another 2009 ACG Cincinnati Deal Maker Corporate winner, is a highly focused provider of specialty insurance products and services through its American Modern Insurance Group subsidiary. American Modern is a leading provider of specialty insurance products and services, with a particular focus on short-

term, personal lines, property insurance products, including physical damage insurance and related coverages for manufactured homes, motorcycles, watercraft, recreational vehicles, collectible automobiles and snowmobiles. American Modern distributes its products and services through diverse channels of distribution.

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Also receiving a 2009 ACG Cincinnati Deal Maker Corporate Award is BlueStar an international wholesale distributor of niche electronic solutions including RFID, Bar Coding, Point-of-Sale, and Security applications. BlueStar has been recognized with numerous awards including Motorola Distributor of the Year, Microsoft Dynamics Distributor of the Year, and Star Micronics Distributor of the Year.

The final Deal maker Corporate Award for 2009 will be presented to Neace Lukens, a full-service insurance brokerage and consulting firm and the state's largest Kentucky-owned independent insurance agency. Recently, Neace Lukens was named to the Top 100 Insurance Agencies in the U.S. by Business Insurance, a leading national industry publication, where they were ranked as the 30th largest insurance agency in the nation.

The 2009 ACG Cincinnati Deal Maker Awards are being presented by Huntington Bank with additional support from Cors & Bassett LLC, Attorneys-at-Law; Rippe & Kingston, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants; and Winton Associates, Inc., Investment Bankers. Additional sponsorship support is provided by Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC, Attorneys-at-Law; and Integra Bank and the *Business Courier* have also contributed to the event.

The Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) is the premier international association for professionals involved in corporate growth, corporate development, and mergers and acquisitions. ACG members are leaders in corporations, private equity, finance, and professional service firms focused on building value in their organizations. Since the association was founded in 1954 ACG members have focused on strategic

activities that increase revenues, profits and, ultimately, stakeholder value. Today ACG has more than 12,000 members and 54 chapters in North America and Europe.

ACG Cincinnati is a regional chapter of the international association with more than 250 members in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana tri-state area from Dayton to Louisville.

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