

Seattle, May 21, 2015

Dear French-American Community,

The First Annual French-American Business Awards Pacific Northwest (FABA PNW) was held on Friday, May 15, at the Rainier Club in downtown Seattle. The event showcased the formidable successes of French and American businesses and individuals from throughout our region. The nominees distinguished themselves in areas that have positively and profoundly impacted trade, culture and relationship for both France and the United States. Awards were given in three categories.

The first award was the Gastronomy & Wine Award which recognized a company for the sustainable quality of its products, its unique approach and success in its industry. The nominees were:

- Chef in the Hat™ - Thierry Rautureau
- Fat Cork - Bryan Maletis
- Les Boulangers Associés, Inc. - Michel Robert
- Lullaby Winery - Virginie Bourgue
- The Woodhouse Wine Estates - Jean-Claude Beck

The winner in this category was Les Boulangers Associés, Inc. Accepting for Michel Robert was his daughter, Chantal Robert.



Anamarleny Alvarez Villa (Lullaby), Jacques Boiroux, Chantal Robert (Les Boulangers Associés, Inc.), Bryan Maletis (Fat Cork) and Jean-Claude Beck (The Woodhouse Wine Estates).

The second award recognized a company for a specific innovative service or product launched in 2010 or later, in any sector. The nominees for the Innovation Award were:

- Arzeda Corporation - Alexandre Zanghellini
- Benaroya Research Institute - Erik Wambre
- LendingRobot - Emmanuel Marot
- Neos-SDI Company - Stephane Bennour
- Nobeltec, Inc. - Iker Pryszo

The 2015 Innovation Award Winner 2015 was Benaroya Research Institute, represented by Erik Wambre.



Alexandre Zanghellini (Arzeda), Philippe Battel, Erik Wambre (Benaroya Research Institute).

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The final award was "Le Prix de l'Excellence" recognizing an individual who has achieved outstanding business success and who demonstrates leadership in his/her support of the French-American community.

The nominees were:

- Patricia Blaise-Caves - French American School of Puget Sound
- Eric Broussard - Amazon.com
- Alain Durand – Esterline
- Karim El Naggat - Alstom Grid
- Vahe Torossian - Microsoft

"Le Prix de l'Excellence" winner for 2015 was Karim El Naggat of Alstom Grid.



Karim El Naggat (Alstom Grid), Vahe Torossian (Microsoft), Alan Merkle (FACC PNW President), Patricia Blaise-Caves (FASPS), Alain Durand (Esterline)

Attendees to the sold-out event enjoyed a Champagne reception followed by a gourmet dinner and a Cognac tasting.

Thanks to our sponsor Delta Air Lines, a Raffle Ticket drawing was held after the awards ceremony in order to win 2 direct round trip tickets from Seattle to Europe in Delta One™. Congratulations to our winner Susan L. Gates.

*Un grand merci* to all who participated in making the event a success and for laying the groundwork for the 2016 edition.

To learn more about the nominees and winners, [click here](#).

To see the pictures of the event, [click here](#).

Thank you to our Honors Selection Committees Philippe Battel, Jacques Boiroux, Bruno Botvinik, Pierre-Yves Clech, Jack A. Cowan, Aude Frevol, Susan L. Gates, Robert Harrahill, Lisa Maddry, Alan Merkle, Marc Onetto, Kris Patten, Aymeric Prieur, Bill Schallert, Louis Scott de Martinville & Linda Witt.

Thanks to our Mount Rainier Sponsors Les Boulangers Associés and Stoel Rives LLP, our Pike Place Market Sponsor SAFRAN, our In-Kind Sponsors Acqua Panna, Balinoff Vodka, Caffè Vita, Champagne Gabriel et Fils, Essenza, Pasquinet Cognac, Perrier, Stelia, TV5 Monde and thank you to our Golden ticket raffle sponsor Delta Air Lines.