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## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conway Awards Program to Honor Accomplishments of Central Ohio Family Businesses**

### **Kimball Midwest, Dr. John Swartz to Receive Highest Honors**

COLUMBUS, OH – [The Conway Center for Family Business](http://www.familybusinesscenter.com) and hundreds of business leaders are set to honor leading Central Ohio family businesses at the **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Business Awards & Expo** on Wednesday, November 14 at the Hilton Columbus in Easton Town Center, 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, Ohio.

More than 40 family businesses and advisors will be showcased at the **Family Business Expo from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**, before the annual awards luncheon. This popular program allows businesses to connect and network before the awards program, which is expected to attract more than 400 participants.

The Family Business Awards Program was established in 1999 to recognize excellence in family business and has honored over 250 Central Ohio family businesses in the last 20 years. The 2018 awards program will recognize 35 Central Ohio businesses in nine categories. Angela An of 10TV will emcee.

### **Family Business of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Recipients Revealed**

The Conway Center annually recognizes a family business and family business leader with its highest awards. The 2018 recipients include two Columbus brands that have grown to revolutionize how business within their respective industries is conducted across the country.

Kimball Midwest will be recognized as Family Business of the Year. Kimball has demonstrated strong commitment to family and to continuously evolving its business through multiple generations. In business since 1923, Kimball is a major force in the industrial maintenance aftermarket. Their roots are based on a “partnerships in performance” model with each employee and customer closely connected to identify the most relevant products and customized programs that meet customer needs.

The 2018 Lifetime Achievement recipient is Dr. John M. Swartz, co-founder and board chairman of Lake Shore Cryotronics, Inc. As a “serial entrepreneur,” Dr. Swartz has been the driving force behind Lake Shore Cryotronics becoming a highly respected worldwide provider of high-precision temperature sensors, measurement instruments, and systems for studying the materials at very low temperatures. Dr. Schwartz’ innovation has been lauded by research scientists who have made Lake Shore’s products fundamental to their research.

Awards will be presented to family businesses in six additional categories to recognize achievement in the many facets vital to family businesses. Honorees include:

<b>Community Engagement</b> – Family businesses that have made a significant contribution to the Central Ohio community:	Happy Chicken Farms
<b>Re-Invention</b> – Family businesses that have successfully adjusted their business strategy to address the changing business and societal demands	Anderson Aluminum
<b>Succession Planning</b> – Family businesses that have developed a succession plan or transferred leadership.	Skilken   Gold Real Estate Development Two Men and a Truck
<b>Support of Family Business</b> – Organizations or individuals that have shown support or demonstrated a commitment to strength, success or longevity of family firms.	Rick Miller Communications Warman Productions
<b>Next-Gen - recognizes</b> emerging leaders/next generation leaders who are making an impact in their business and in the Central Ohio business community.	Thor Hess, Southeastern Equipment Co.
<b>Rising Star</b> - recognizes emerging leaders/next generation leaders – family or non-family members - who are making an impact in their business.	Kimmi Wernli, Crazy Richards Peanut Butter Company

Nineteen family businesses have reached a significant milestone in 2018, and the Conway Center will honor their achievements at the awards. These include:

<b>95-year anniversary</b>	Kimball Midwest
<b>65-year anniversary</b>	Happy Chicken Farms Martin Painting & Coating Company Ricart Automotive
<b>60-year anniversary</b>	Crestview Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing Services
<b>55-year anniversary</b>	Donatos Pizza
<b>50-year anniversary</b>	Acloché LLC Insurance Agencies of Ohio Lakeshore Cryotronics
<b>40-year anniversary</b>	Miles-McClellan Construction Co., Inc. Gordon Flesch Company ( <i>40 years in Central Ohio</i> )
<b>35-year anniversary</b>	Ohio Power Tool
<b>30-year anniversary</b>	Shaffer Entertainment Spartan Logistics
<b>25-year anniversary</b>	Integrated Building Systems Hylant ( <i>25 years in Central Ohio</i> )
<b>15-year anniversary</b>	Environmental Pest Management
<b>One Millionth Ticket</b>	EasyIT

The Family Business Awards Program is made possible through the generous support of Dispatch Media Group, First Merchants Bank, Gryphon Financial Partners, Ricart Automotive, Rider + Reinke Financial Group, Taft/, and White Castle.

The [Conway Center for Family Business](#) is Central Ohio’s resource for educational programs, resources and networking opportunities to support the growth and success of family-owned businesses. The Center celebrates the successes of family-owned businesses at its annual awards program and offers peer group opportunities for next-generation leaders, family business leaders, and women family business owners. The organization includes more than 200 family-owned businesses from Central Ohio ranging in size from three to more than 25,000 employees.