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NH businesses honored for their strong work ethic

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BEDFORD — Honoring Granite State businesses for their integrity and strong work ethic, the Better Business Bureau of New Hampshire has granted its annual Torch Awards.

Benchmark Home Improvements of Exeter, Belknap Subaru of Tilton and Mainstay Technologies of Belmont were named the winners of the BBB's 2018 Torch Awards for Marketplace Ethics, which are designed to promote the importance of ethical business practices and the willingness and efforts made by outstanding businesses to ensure that the marketplace remains fair and honorable.

"They are role models. They have gone the extra mile," Robert Shomphe, CEO and president of BBB, said of the finalists and winners. "These companies make a difference."

The awards, he said, are a way to help encourage and support best practices, and to celebrate business integrity and respect.

The awards are given out annually in the top small, medium and large business categories based on the number of employees.

The finalists for the small business category were Country Bridals and Formal Wear of Jaffrey, Family Car Care of Concord and the winner, Benchmark Home Improvements.

For the medium category, the finalists were C&C Flooring of Manchester, Northeast Basement Water Systems of Seabrook and the winner, Belknap Subaru.



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Scott Ives of Belknap Subaru in Tilton accepts a Torch Award. (KIMBERLY HOUGHTON/ UNION LEADER CORRESPONDENT)



The finalists for the large category were Carlisle Wide Plank Floors of Stoddard, Foxfire Property Management of Concord and the winner, Mainstay Technologies.

Howard Brodsky, chairman of the BBB's board of directors, said Mainstay Technologies was founded in 2004 in Ryan Robinson's Ford Explorer.

Today, with more than 40 employees, Brodsky described the company's workforce as smart, passionate individuals who recognize that technology drives business.

Mainstay Technologies has a driven team filled with professionals who have a culture based on trust and doing business the right way with integrity above all else, he said.

"These award winners operate with honesty, fairness and integrity," Brodsky said. "When businesses have a strong ethical core, doing it right the first time is always the plan."

Business pressure, opportunity or rationalization can steer companies to move away from their missions, according to Brodsky, who said those businesses that cross legal boundaries believe they are the victims of temptation.

"But unethical businesses end up hurting everybody," he said, stressing the need to recognize those companies in New Hampshire that go above and beyond to please their customers and clients, volunteer in the community and respect their workers.

The BBB also awarded five student scholarships on Wednesday during a ceremony at the Bedford Village Inn.

The \$2,000 academic scholarships were presented to Scarlett Souter, Kaelin Cegelski, Jacqueline Baumann, Brianna Chase and Alyssa Johnson.

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