

# THE Pillar AWARDS

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Matthew Giles

Mellon Financial Corporation  
Mark A. Nordenberg  
University of Pittsburgh

## Honorary Committee

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The Grable Foundation

Esther Bash

Urban League

Richard Cerilli

Pittsburgh Business Times

Roderick Craighead

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

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University of Pittsburgh

Jackie Dixon

Giant Eagle

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New Pittsburgh Courier

e Effort

QV Radio

Holly Hatcher Frazier

Ellis School

Cecilia Griffin Golden

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Pam Golden

Pittsburgh Regional Alliance

Ellen Greek

Chamber of Commerce

Carmen Jordan

Pet-W-BMW

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Gateway Health Plan

Eric Moreland

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PRMPC

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# MEC

## THE MINORITY ENTERPRISE CORPORATION

OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

August 7, 2002

Mr. Wade Hampton III  
Swade Welding Co.  
825 11th Avenue, Suite D  
Munhall, PA 15120

Dear Mr. Hampton:

On behalf of the Honorary Chairpersons and the Honorary Committee for the Minority Enterprise Corporation's 2002 Pillar Awards, I am pleased to inform you that you were nominated for The MEC Achievement Award and were subsequently selected as one of five finalists in that category!

With our finger firmly on the pulse of minority businesses in the region, the Minority Enterprise Corporation created the Pillar Awards to recognize outstanding achievements by minority and women entrepreneurs who have managed to succeed in a challenging marketplace – as well as those that have helped them along the way. We are pleased to announce that the 2002 Pillar Awards will be presented Saturday, September 7, 2002 at the Hilton Pittsburgh and Towers. The event will feature Pittsburgh's own Sharon Epperson, CNBC Business News Correspondent.

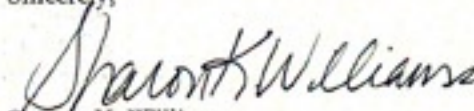
Awards will be presented in five categories: The Minority Entrepreneur of 2002, The Up and Coming Entrepreneur, The Economic Impact Award, The MEC Achievement Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a silent auction of items such as autographed Franco Harris footballs, framed original artwork from local artists, beauty spa packages, a weekend stay at New York City's largest hotel, the New York Hilton, and many more items! You will also enjoy a raffle of a wide variety of items. Dinner and the award ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. Business attire is appropriate. The event will also be recorded by WPXI-TV for airing on the Pittsburgh Cable News Channel!

In order to plan the nomination video that will run during the event, please supply us with one or two photographs of you and/or your place of business, as well as an updated bio to be used in announcing each finalist during the ceremony. We must ask that you supply the bio and pictures to MEC on or before August 15, 2002. Your pictures WILL be returned to you after the event. These pictures can be mailed to Virginia Montanez at the address on this letterhead, or can be emailed to her at [vdavid@sgi.net](mailto:vdavid@sgi.net).

We will be supplying you with two free tickets to the event (a \$200 value). Each additional ticket can be purchased at the discount price of \$75, or you can purchase an entire table of 8 (two free + six purchased) for \$600. And finally, should you win, your name as it appears in the address heading above (minus the salutation) is how we it will appear engraved on the award unless we are otherwise instructed by you. If you would like additional tickets to the event, or if you have any questions, please call Virginia Montañez at 412-434-5806 ext. 17.

Again, congratulations! We look forward to seeing you at the 2002 Pillar Awards!

Sincerely,



Sharon K. Williams  
President and CEO

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