

Accepting Applications for the BEQ Pride 2017 LGBTQ Corporate Eminence Award

The Business Equality Network and the BEQ Pride editorial team are committed to the development and success of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer business community. We place special emphasis on and acknowledge support for organizations and major employers that have made diverse and inclusive workplace, multicultural engagement and supply chain diversity not just a matter of policy, but a matter of practice.

Once a year, we honor organizations fostering economic stability in the LGBTQ community through the fair treatment and inclusion of LGBTQ employees, suppliers, consumers, and partners in business. These organizations are recognized for their demonstrated practice of Business Equality Excellence across the enterprise.

Our [inaugural list of 107](#) major corporations, employers and two sports organizations have demonstrated their comprehensive commitment to LGBTQ equality. Simply put, our awardees routinely deliver an unmistakable message to the country and each state where they are headquartered cannot ignore — diversity and inclusion matter. Their increased visible, vocal and financial commitment to equality in the workforce, workplace, marketplace and supply chain of their respective organizations contributes to the economic climate locally, nationally and around the world. Full details of the award can be found in our December 2016, Volume 1, Issue 2 of BEQ Pride magazine.

To that end, the BEQ Pride editorial board is an active participant in the business equality movement and wishes to honor one of our Business Equality Excellence Awardees with further distinction for rising above in *distinguished leadership, creativity, and commitment* to growing their engagement with the LGBTQ business community. One applicant will be recognized with the **BEQ Pride 2017 LGBTQ Corporate Eminence** award.

The Eminence Award

Our definition of **Eminence** is a conferred high status or importance due to marked superiority in LGBTQ business equality. The BEQ Pride 2017 LGBTQ Corporate Eminence award is a designation of distinction for one of our 107 LGBTQ Business Equality Excellence Awardees in their outstanding efforts to include the LGBTQ business community.

Ideal candidates are actively engaged with both certified LGBTQ business enterprises and in growing their outreach to the overall LGBTQ business community. Candidates consistently demonstrate leadership, creativity and commitment to LGBTQ business development and diversity and inclusion through LGBTQ procurement, technical, operational, and managerial assistance, and/or sponsorship of or to related programs.

Eligibility

All 2017 BEQ Excellence Awardees are eligible and encouraged to apply for further recognition through the BEQ 2017 LGBTQ Corporate Eminence Award.

Application Questionnaire Available

Beginning March 1, 2017 at BusinessEqualityMagazine.com/CorporateEminenceQuestionnaire

Application Questionnaire Deadline

The BEQ Pride Editorial Board must receive your electronic application **by 8:00 p.m. EST on May 7, 2017** at Awards@BusinessEqualityNetwork.com

Submission Process

Applications and any supporting documentation must be completed and submitted **electronically** to Awards@BusinessEqualityNetwork.com on or before 8 p.m. EST on May 7, 2017. All submission information and any financial data is kept confidential.

Package Components

- 1) **Required** – A cover letter from the CEO, Chief Procurement/Diversity Officer or Supplier Diversity Leader (or designee) presenting the organization as an ideal candidate for this recognition.
- 2) **Required** – Completed Applicant Information and Application Questionnaire
- 3) **Required** – Copy or link to the Corporate Diversity and Supplier Diversity Policies
- 4) *Optional* – Letter of Recommendation – Strong applications include Letters of Recommendation from LGBTQ suppliers, strategic alliance partners, and associates addressing your Corporation's commitment to Supplier Diversity, small business development, diverse supplier outreach, and community involvement, among other topics.
- 5) *Suggested* – Supporting Documents & Materials may include any relevant supporting materials and links to information that demonstrate superior leadership, creativity, and commitment to or for the LGBTQ business community. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. internal initiatives designed to build internal advocacy and awareness around LGBTQ business enterprises as partners/suppliers (organization/department education, workshops or cross-function/division collaboration, etc.)
 - b. outreach to the local LGBTQ business community to include awareness, networking and/or exhibitor events
 - c. special programming like Mentorship, Scholarship and/or Sponsorships

Applicant Information

Applications will be reviewed separately with responses to each question earning points as indicated. Please identify which question you are answering with each response. An application can earn a maximum of 100 points and in the event of a tie, a bonus of five additional points will be awarded by the committee to the application demonstrating the greatest sustainable impact for the community. Responses must include ALL of the following information and

Name of Organization:

Name of Contact Person:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Application Questionnaire*	Points
1) Include a narrative addressing how your Corporation supports or provides performance incentive(s) for the inclusion of LGBTQ suppliers in the procurement process and explain what role executive support played in your 2016 success.	15
2) Does your Corporation require Second Tier Spend from its Prime Suppliers? Provide a brief narrative detailing your Corporation's 2016 outreach, tracking, incentives, and goals associated with Second Tier Spend.	15
3) Did your Corporation meet or exceed its internal goals for spending with LGBTQ suppliers in 2016? If so, what were the key factors contributing to your success? If not, what steps will be taken to ensure better results in 2017? Please explain.	5
4) Did your Corporation conduct training sessions, workshops, or host events for LGBTQ business enterprise suppliers (prospective and current) in 2016? Please explain.	20
5) Please describe successful LGBTQ business-related initiatives that required coordination and collaboration across departments during calendar year 2015 or 2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Were there any LGBTQ initiatives, activities, events, or resources requiring various departments to collaborate to engage the LGBTQ business community (recruiting, ERG, conferences, PRIDE event, marketing, etc.)? b. For all events listed please distinguish between sessions led by your supplier diversity organization, another 	20

Application Questionnaire*	Points
corporate department or other organization outside of the company.	
6) Did your corporation or its leadership take a public stand on a current LGBTQ civil rights, workplace equality or social justice issue in the last 2 years? If so, explain.	20
7) Please list awards that demonstrate your Corporation's advocacy of LGBTQ supplier development, LGBTQ workplace/workforce initiatives, LGBTQ recruiting, internal LGBTQ support or mentoring initiatives, special LGBTQ advertising/marketing campaigns.	5
TOTAL	100
Bonus – awarded by the BEQ Awards Committee	5
*The BEQ Pride Eminence Award Review Committee may need to call or email your contact person to clarify applicant information or application questionnaire responses.	