

## **“Excellence in Innovation”**

### ***GACC Award for Excellence in German-American Business***

Apply or nominate a company today!

### **GACC Awards Gala**

**Friday, October 13, 2017 | Chicago, IL**

#### **Award winners will be presented at the GACC Awards Gala**

The German American Chambers of Commerce® (GACCs) have established the GACC Awards to recognize outstanding achievements by our member companies both in the U.S. and in Germany.

The “Excellence in Innovation” Award highlights and honors the development of innovative ideas in the German-American business community.

### **Benefits of Winning a Prestigious GACC Award**

#### **Recognition at the GACC Awards Gala**

- ◆ Opportunity to present the company & innovative idea at the Awards Ceremony where 250+ executives of the German-American business community will be in attendance
- ◆ Ongoing recognition at future GACC Awards Galas
- ◆ Winners receive one complementary ticket or a 20% rebate on a full or half table reservation; applicants receive a 10% rebate on a full or half table
- ◆ Winners receive a crystal award

#### **Nationwide Recognition across all GACC Print & Digital Channels**

- ◆ Company profile published on all GACC websites and social media
- ◆ Company featured in GACC newsletters across the U.S.
- ◆ Announcement in the German American Trade (GAT) magazine
- ◆ Recognition in GACC's annual reports: GACC Midwest Report, GACC South Annual Report, and GACC NY Economic Yearbook

#### **Recognition in U.S. and German Media**

- ◆ Press release announcing GACC Award Winners distributed to German and U.S. press

For questions regarding the awards or the application process, please contact Kirsten Schmandt by phone at (312) 494-2176 or via email at [schmandt@gaccmidwest.org](mailto:schmandt@gaccmidwest.org).

## “Excellence in Innovation”

### Award Eligibility & Frequently Asked Questions

#### Eligibility for the “Excellence in Innovation” Award

Companies with an innovative mindset that have developed an innovative product or business model, or excelled in other innovative ways can apply for the “Excellence in Innovation” Award.

All applicants and nominees must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ **German Ownership:** parent company must be headquartered in Germany with a U.S. subsidiary
- ◆ **GACC Membership:** the U.S. subsidiary must be a member of GACC Midwest, GACC NY, and/or GACC South
- ◆ **GACC Award Gala Participation:** one representative from the winning company is required to participate in the GACC Awards Gala on October 13th in Chicago, IL to receive the award. Each winner will receive one complementary ticket or a 20% rebate on a half or full table

**Please Note:** Award nominees must consent to be nominated prior to application submission.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Awards & Winners

##### How many “Excellence in Innovation” Award winners are selected?

- ◆ A total of 3 (three) winners will be selected; one from each GACC region: the Midwest, New York, and South.

##### Who will determine the winners?

- ◆ An independent jury panel from the GACC community will select the three winners.

##### How will the winners be notified?

- ◆ All winners will be notified by email or telephone by mid September 2017.

##### When will the winners be announced publicly?

- ◆ The winners will be announced publicly in a press release by mid September 2017. The press release will be shared with the winning companies prior to release for approval.

#### Application

##### What is the application deadline?

- ◆ All applications and nominations must be received by: **Friday, July 31, 2017 at 5:00 CST**

##### Where do I return my completed application?

- ◆ Return applications and supporting documents via email to:  
[Kirsten Schmandt at schmandt@gaccmidwest.org](mailto:schmandt@gaccmidwest.org)

**Further questions? Contact:** Kirsten Schmandt | (312) 494-2176 | [schmandt@gaccmidwest.org](mailto:schmandt@gaccmidwest.org)

## “Excellence in Innovation”

### Application Requirements & Questions

#### Application Requirements

- 1) Type your answers to **Part A** and **Part B**
- 2) Complete the **Application Form**
- 3) Return the full application to Kirsten Schmandt via email at [schmandt@gaccmidwest.org](mailto:schmandt@gaccmidwest.org)
  - ◆ **Submit the following documents:**
    - ◆ Answers to Part A and Part B
    - ◆ Completed Application Form
    - ◆ Optional (but highly recommended): enclose any supporting documents, such as promotional materials, which may support the application

**Please Note:** Applications and nominations cannot be withdrawn after being received.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, July 31, 2017 at 5:00 CST**

#### Company Profile

**Part A**

**Please answer each of the following questions in 250 words or less.**

1. Describe how the company demonstrates excellence in German-American trade.
2. Describe the company's current financial situation and how the company has positioned itself for current and future success.\*
3. What plans and strategies does the company have for the future?\*
4. Describe one of the company's core values and how it translates to everyday business.

**\*Confidentiality Notice:** The information requested in this section will not be published in any form or announced publicly. This information is kept strictly confidential and used solely for judging purposes.

**Part B**

#### Company Innovation

**Please answer each of the following questions in 500 words or less.**

1. Describe the innovation and the need, challenge, or opportunity it addresses, including when it was implemented.
2. Describe the impact this innovation has or will have on the company or target market.
3. Describe how this innovation is different from competitors' products/services and why it is unique.

**Further questions? Contact:** Kirsten Schmandt | (312) 494-2176 | [schmandt@gaccmidwest.org](mailto:schmandt@gaccmidwest.org)

## “Excellence in Innovation”

### Application Form

Please PRINT clearly

**Applicant/Nominee:** (must be a member of GACC Midwest, GACC New York, and/or GACC South)

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

GACC Member of:  GACC Midwest  GACC New York  GACC South

Will attend the Gala\* on October 13, 2017:  Yes  No

\*One representative from the winning company must attend the Gala to receive the award and will receive one complimentary ticket or a 20% rebate on a half/full table reservation. Any extraneous costs (i.e. travel or hotel) are at the company's expense.

#### Company Profile:

Please provide as much information as possible. If information is not applicable to the company, please leave blank.

#### U.S. Subsidiary Information

Company Industry / Sector: \_\_\_\_\_

Founded in the U.S. (year & state): \_\_\_\_\_

Location of U.S. Regional HQ: \_\_\_\_\_

Average Yearly U.S. Sales:\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of U.S. Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

#### German Parent Company Information

Founded in Germany (year & location): \_\_\_\_\_

Location of German Parent Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Average Yearly Sales:\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of German Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees Worldwide: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*The sales figures requested in this section will not be published in any form or announced publicly. This information is kept strictly confidential and used solely for judging purposes.

#### Submitted by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

By checking this box, you confirm the nominee has been informed of the nomination and will attend the Gala. (Only check if nominating another company)