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From left: John R. Brant, vice president of Kipp Brant Drummond & Associates; Denise Bean-White, CEO and president of Consortium Media Services in Oxnard; Stephen J. Kipp, CEO and president of Kipp Brant Drummond & Associates; Cheryl Heitmann, executive director of the Ventura Music Festival; and Sandip "Sonny" Shah, owner of Four Seasons Cleaners in Ventura.

Kipp Brant Drummond & Associates present inaugural Circle of Excellence Awards

Stephen J. Kipp, president and CEO of Kipp Brant Drummond & Associates (KBD) in Ventura says his firm is frequently asked for referrals to local businesses that provide quality goods and services. "We take referrals very seriously since the related experience with these referrals can and will affect our client relationships," he says. "Accordingly, we developed the concept of a small business Circle of Excellence to support the local business community, based on referrals from within our client base."

Throughout 2007-2008 the firm solicited its clients and strategic local advisory network to develop a proposed list of candidates. Selected businesses represent the best of the best in their category as voted on by KBD's financial base, resulting in the firm's inaugural Circle of Excellence Program.

In addition to a comprehensive listing of businesses clients are encouraged to patronize, three local business executives were recognized for outstanding achievement. "It was extremely difficult to narrow down the list of businesses from 85 nominations received, and even more difficult to select our three finalists," Kipp says.

Cheryl Heitmann, executive director Ventura Music Festival

“We want to recognize Cheryl in the non-profit sector for bringing the Ventura Music Festival to the next level,” Kipp says. “She has grown the annual festival in revenue and budget while nearly doubling attendance. We are excited about the leadership role the Ventura Music Festival has demonstrated in the community.”

Denise Bean-White, CEO and president Consortium Media Services

“Denise strives for excellence and is committed to honoring her clients through service and dedication,” Kipp says. “She continues to be a servant of the community, frequently donating time and professional services to assist non-profit organizations throughout the community.”

Sandip “Sonny” Shah, president Four Seasons Cleaners

“Sonny is very civic-minded and for the past five years has been involved with two major community projects through the Rotary Club of Ventura, Coats for Kids and Prom Dress Relief, which resulted in the cleaning of 2,000 coats and 500 prom dresses.”

About Kipp Brant Financial & Associates

Kipp Brant Drummond & Associates is an ensemble firm of financial planning practitioners providing private wealth management services to middle-class millionaires. Based in Ventura, it services the comprehensive retirement planning and wealth management needs of clients, providing custom, in-depth analysis and client-centered financial solutions tailored to achieve financial and lifestyle goals.

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