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Ralph Hargrove Named Outstanding Entrepreneur by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

As part of its emphasis on recognizing the contributions of area businesses, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce will present its Outstanding Entrepreneur Award to Ralph Hargrove, president and founder of Hargrove Engineers + Constructors. The award will be presented during the Chamber's Small Business Week luncheon at the Battle House Hotel on Thursday, May 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In 1995, Hargrove started the company as the sole employee working from his home. Today, it is one of the largest privately held engineering firms in the state of Alabama, and is employee-owned with 10 offices across the United States. The company's more than 950 professionals provide specialized engineering, procurement, project and construction management, and technical services to pulp and paper, chemical, pharmaceutical, refining, power, oil and gas, manufacturing and government and infrastructure industries. Locally, there are 332 employees.



Hargrove

Mobile Area Chamber Board Chairman Frank Lott III and president of Heritage Homes, says, "Ralph's mission is to ensure that leadership is developed and encouraged at every level of the company, and that, along with the company's philanthropic efforts, played a big part in the committee's decision to honor him.

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Hargrove Engineers + Constructors won the Mobile Area Chamber's 2010 Corporate Community Service Award for its efforts supporting numerous nonprofit and educational organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Best Robotics, Distinguished Young Women and Gulf Coast Exploreum. The company also established the Hargrove Foundation in 2012 to support education, arts and culture, sports activities, and health and health services within the communities it serves.

The award was created in 2014 to recognize and celebrate an individual who represents the characteristics of successful entrepreneurship including creativity, initiative, dynamic growth and sound management. In selecting the winner, the committee used guiding criteria, including: a substantiated history as an established entrepreneur, the impact of the business on the job market and the innovativeness of a product or service.

The Hargrove Engineers + Constructors team's service to American industry has not gone unnoticed. *Inc. Magazine* recognized the firm as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in the U.S. Earlier this year, the company was inducted into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame and was recently ranked as No. 135 among *Engineering News Record's* Top 500 Design Firms, climbing 40 spots from its 2012 ranking. Hargrove was also recognized by ZweigWhite as one of the Top 10 Hot Firms, and by *Business Alabama* as one of the Best Companies to Work For.

Luncheon tickets are \$50, or \$40 for Mobile Area Chamber and MBDA Business Center members, and will feature entrepreneur Dean Parker, chairman of 1702, a Chamber-led entrepreneurial mentoring program, as the keynote speaker. Parker will tell his personal story illustrating how chance and innovation create great opportunities. Call 251-431-8607 or email brembert@mobilechamber.com for reservations.

The Title Sponsor for the Chamber's Small Business Week events is: Regions Bank. Gold level: C Spire. Silver level: Alabama Small Business Development Center Network, Community Bank and PNC Bank. Bronze level: Century Bank, Hand Arendall LLC, Maynard Cooper & Gale, Southern Development Council and Trustmark.

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