

International-Friendly Business Award Announced

November 25, 2008

Two local businesses, Citibank and Lynntech, Inc., have been chosen to receive the International Friendly business Award during the 10:30 a.m. opening ceremony at the Brazos Valley Worldfest on Saturday, November 22.

The first time award was presented by the International Programs Office at Texas A&M and the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank to reward those who go out of their way to provide a helpful and friendly business environment to foreign nationals.

Royce Hickman, president and CEO of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce said the awards are the result of a long term collaboration with Texas A&M.

“The Chamber has been collaborating with the Texas A&M International Programs Office for the past three years,” Hickman said. “We have worked together to create a more welcoming environment and to develop an awareness in the business community of this ready-made market that our foreign nationals bring. The two businesses that were selected have really made an effort to be internationally friendly organizations.”

Lynntech, Inc., an international company offering technology and commercialization efforts to people of all ethnic and economic strata of the world. Their staff reflects this internationalization of the organization as well, helping to build the international community in Bryan and College Station. The Lynntech nominator, an international intern, said she was part of an international team and made to feel comfortable and at home in the work environment. Lynntech also has been actively involved in international events and activities at Texas A&M.

Oliver Murphy, Chief Technology Officer and Founder of Lynntech, accepted the award on behalf of all employees at Lynntech.

Over the past 17 years, first as First American Bank and now as Citibank, the organization has been involved in making our foreign national residents welcome in our community. Clay Reibe, Market President for Citibank accepted the new award for Citibank employees at the Brazos Valley Worldfest.

Citibank developed a banking package that makes life easier for foreign nationals to set up a bank account and establish credit in the United States. As a long time supporter of international student activities, Citibank has sponsored events such as International Week and individual club activities. Citibank also stepped forward to provide the first financial support to bring the Brazos Valley Worldfest to life. They didn't just provide funding, Citibank employees also volunteered in 2007 and again in 2008 at the festival.

The Chamber and International Programs established the International-Friendly Business Award in 2007 and announced it at the Brazos Valley Worldfest that same year. The purpose of the award is to recognize businesses that go out of their way to provide a welcoming business environment for international students, scholars and faculty and other international residents of the community. The award will continue to raise awareness of the business needs of our international community and reward the initiative taken by businesses to help meet those needs.