

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF MARTIN COUNTY
ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BUSINESS APPRECIATION AWARDS**
17 local companies & 1 community leader honored during annual event

Shelter Structures, Inc, captures an Export Excellence Award

STUART, FLA. – The Business Development Board of Martin County (BCBMC) today hosted its annual Business Appreciation Luncheon with Dale A. Brill, Ph.D. the director of the Governor’s Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development (OTTED), as the keynote speaker. The event, sponsored by McCraney Properties and Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, drew more than 300 members of Martin County’s business community to the Hutchinson Island Marriott.

The week of September 15-19 was designated by Governor Charlie Crist as Business Appreciation Week. As part of the celebration, the BDBMC’s luncheon recognized the many contributions of local, existing companies from within targeted business sectors. These companies provide quality jobs, help expand the local tax base and, due to the contributory nature of their business, help drive positive economic activity in virtually all sectors of our local economy. As a result of their sales outside of Martin County, these particular companies import dollars to the local economy, which then circulate throughout our community and support jobs in many other local businesses.

”Considering the challenging economy, it is remarkable to have such an amazing array of quality companies growing in Martin County. Of the 17 companies we recognized for their contributions to the local economy, three companies won statewide accolades from the Governor in three distinct categories,” said Ron Bunch, executive director of the Business Development Board of Martin County. “Even in difficult times, these thriving, targeted businesses continue to provide the types of clean, higher paying, knowledge-based jobs that Martin County residents deserve. We are proud to have the opportunity to honor these exceptional targeted companies and their leadership that call Martin County their home.”

Shelter Structures.Inc, continues to expand its international presence, with recent successes in Mexico and Kuwait, and another project in development for a company in Chili. Their unique solution for weather protection problems in remote areas, with portability and mobility features, continues to be a leading problem solver for companies that need covered space - fast.

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Winners of the 2008 Business Development Board of Martin County's Business Appreciation Awards include:

Export Excellence

*SOL, Inc.**

Waterblasting Technologies, Inc.

John Donovan Enterprises, Inc.

Shelter Structures, Inc.

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