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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**GWATA-NCW TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES INNOVATOR AWARDS LUNCHEON AND
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

-TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012-

**NOMINATE TECH SAVVY BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR OR A FUTURE TECHNOLOGY LEADER
TODAY!**

Wenatchee- GWATA (www.gwata.org), the NCW technology alliance is pleased to announce the annual Innovator Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, March 27, 2012. GWATA, celebrating twelve years, is a regional organization founded in 2000 to promote a vibrant technology-based economy benefiting the citizens and communities of North Central Washington. GWATA's core values are to connect people and resources, provide an exchange of ideas, create a culture that encourages entrepreneurs, and to support innovators around North Central Washington.

Since 2001, GWATA has presented an Award Luncheon and recognized innovative individuals and businesses in our region. Currently, GWATA is accepting sponsorship for the awards luncheon from \$250 to \$5000. Each year, there are three awards given; a Tech Savvy Business of the Year Award, an Entrepreneur of the Year award and Future Technology Leader. The Tech Savvy Business is defined as an organization or entity that has successfully applied technology to one or more aspects of their operations to improve their efficiencies and an Entrepreneur is defined as a person who develops a new innovative product or service or establishes as new enterprise to bring a new or existing product to the marketplace. The Future Technology Leader is an innovative project that is student lead. Over the past decade, GWATA has recognized life-long entrepreneurs with a Lifetime Achievement award. Nomination forms for all the awards are being accepted online at www.gwata.org. Submit today!

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Previous award winners from around Central Washington are as follows:

Tech Savvy Business

- 2011 Howell at the Moon Productions
- 2010 Wenatchee Valley Medical Center
- 2009 Mike Harvey, Moses Lake Industries
- 2008 Mark Bolz, Confluent Data Systems
- 2007 Roger Erlandsen, Erlandsen & Associates, Inc.
- 2004 Jerry Isenhart, GoLakeChelan.com
- 2003 Lorne Brown, Lovitt Cider
- 2002 Bernie Schell, Pak it Rite

Future Technology Leaders

- 2011 Bradley Shipley & the RAMbots 4-H Club
- 2010 Kelsey Taylor & Waterville 4th grade class
- 2009 WHS Solar Drag Team

Lifetime Achievement recipients

- 2010 Carl Campbell, Triple C Healthcare
- 2008 Bret Pittsinger, Van Doren Sales
- 2007 Wilfred & Rufus Woods, The Wenatchee World
- 2004 Tom Mathison, Stemilt Growers
- 2003 Dimitri Mandelis, LocalTel Communications
- 2001 Choi Halladay, Wenatchee Valley College

Entrepreneur of the Year

- 2011 Melissa Wisen, Borsa Bella Designs
- 2010 Dan Carr and Candy Mecham, Cured by Visconti's
- 2009 Daniel Pirestani, Systematech
- 2008 John McQuaig, McQuaig & Welk, PLLC
- 2007 Valda Sarty, Sarty Mountain, Inc.
- 2004 Andy Metcalfe, NTI
- 2003 Scott Berglin, Berglin Corporation
- 2002 Chris Raines, Sun Graphics
- 2001 JC Baldwin, GTC Technical Support

GWATA is pleased to recognize technology based businesses and Entrepreneurs throughout North Central Washington. GWATA is accepting nominations until February 17, 2012. For more information on GWATA, the technology alliance, membership, luncheon sponsorship or nomination forms, visit www.gwata.org. ###