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Business leaders: Who's doing what in Oakland County

by Michigan Business Review
 Friday July 17, 2009, 4:53 AM

The following is a list of recent achievements by businesses and business leaders in Oakland County:

- The Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals has appointed **James Harless** to fill the position of government relations director on the AHMP Board of Directors. Harless is a vice president at Plymouth-based Soil and Materials Engineers Inc.
- **Skidmore**, a Royal Oak creative studio, was recently awarded five Renaissance Awards from the Detroit chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. The IABC's annual awards program recognizes Detroit's leaders in all areas of communication, including marketing, public relations, writing and design.
- Hospice of Michigan hired Leslie Kota as its Development Manager. In this role, Kota will be responsible for raising funds for the nonprofit organization through regional fund raising campaigns and special events. Kota is a resident of Rochester Hills.
- **Curt Petterson** of Absolute Engineering LLC, **Joey Silvian** of The Virtual Interactive Agency and **Spencer Silk** of Franklin CIO Services LLC - all partners with the Business Improvement Team LLC - were inducted into the TechTown Mentor program on June 5 and became certified TechTown mentors. The mentor program at TechTown accelerates business growth by matching TechTown entrepreneurs with skilled business professionals who can guide them toward earlier revenue, job creation and sustainability.



James Harless

• **Kendra Pond**, a resident of Commerce Township, joined Invescor Ltd. in Farmington Hills as Chief Financial Officer.

• The International Association of Business Communicators has awarded Farmington Hills-based **J.R. Thompson Company's** work for Mercedes-Benz USA, by naming their marketing-communications 2008 Wholesale Partner Program winner of the 2009 IABC Detroit's Renaissance Award of Excellence.

• **Harris Marketing Group** has a new office location, 102 Pierce St., in downtown Birmingham. HMG, previously located at 115 W. Brown Street, moved to its new location in June.

• Warner Norcross & Judd LLP has two new additions to the staff. James B. Cunningham joined Warner Norcross & Judd LLP as senior counsel in the Business Practice Group. Real estate attorney **Margaret Van Meter** joined Warner Norcross & Judd LLP as senior counsel and will concentrate her practice in commercial real estate transactions. Both will practice in the Firm's Southfield office.

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