

2023 Herbert W. Vanden Brul **ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD**



RIT | Saunders College of
Business

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Dwight M. (Kip) Palmer

Chief Executive Officer

Palmer Food Services

Kip Palmer is a native of Rochester, NY, and received his BA from Wittenberg University. Following college, he joined his father in building Rochester-based Palmer Food Services and Syracuse-based G&C Food Distributors.

As a 5th generation CEO of Palmer Foods and the Palmer Family of Companies, Kip Palmer is recognized in the greater Rochester and Syracuse business community as a leader and mentor in the

industry. Under his leadership, these companies thrive and are recognized as frontrunners in independent foodservice, production, and redistribution. Kip's leadership has both continued the legacy of his family and created a sustainable business for the communities in which they serve.

Kip's innovative spirit and continual drive to serve his associates and community is apparent in his partnerships with local businesses and organizations. He contributes his time and resources to a variety of charitable and business organizations. He loves to see those around him succeed and has been a vocal advocate and active supporter of young entrepreneurs and community organizations. In 2023, Kip received an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree from Roberts Wesleyan University.

Kip is married to Amy, has five children and four grandchildren.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award, established in 1984, is given annually to an individual(s) who has successfully managed the development of a new "emerging" business within the Greater Rochester Community and is an inspiration for others to become an entrepreneur.

2023 Herbert W. Vanden Brul **STUDENT ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD**



Nndidi Chimah

B.S. Hospitality Management, Saunders College of Business, B.S. Perspectives in Global Innovation, School of Individualized Study

Nndidi is from Baltimore, MD, with a heritage from Nigeria. Through her studies at RIT, she has developed her interests and diligently set and accomplished many accomplishments toward her passion of creating safe spaces for marginalized individuals. Nndidi has been able to study abroad in over 5 countries. She has held multiple leadership positions across the student body with clubs including the Organization of African Students, and the student chapters of Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals and American Hotel Lodging Association to name a few. She has also been able to complete advanced research around the impact of Covid 19 on global entrepreneurship and has furthered her skillset with her startup company. Today, Nndidi is the proud founder of SowBlack which has created a web extension to help people find black-owned businesses as they are shopping online. She looks forward to continuing the development of the startup fulltime post graduation.



Jon Hacker

B.S. Biomedical Engineering, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, B.S. Neuroentrepreneurship, School of Individualized Study

Jon Hacker is an inventor, an engineer, and an entrepreneur. Since the age of 12, he knew neurotechnology was his passion, its untapped potential to help billions could not go unrealized. To this end, he started NeurGear, a company using neurotech to tackle stress & PTSD. NeurGear has since developed the first ultrasound wearable to rebalance the fight or flight response and rest systems.



Jake Downie

B.S. Computer Science, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Jake Downie is a computer science student with a continued interest in startups and programming. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Science at RIT. Jake's experience includes co-founding JDocs, a startup where he developed eDiscovery software tools for law firms, and participating in quantum photonics research projects at RIT's Future Photon Initiative. Committed to community service, Jake has volunteered with many different groups through RIT's Honors Program. His dedication to making a positive impact and his eagerness to innovate demonstrate his potential as a future leader in the technology industry.



Joshua Seyse

B.S. Finance, Saunders College of Business

Joshua Seyse is a second-year Finance major in the Saunders College of Business at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He is currently working on a multitude of different ventures such as the creation of an on-campus delivery service and the development of a financial literacy curriculum. His professional interests include fintech and personal finance. In his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis and building with Lego bricks.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Herbert W. Vanden Brul Student Entrepreneurial Award, established in 2019, is intended to recognize outstanding RIT undergraduate or graduate student(s) who have demonstrated the potential to become successful entrepreneurs

Previous

Vanden Brul Award Winners



2022

Susan R. Holliday
President, Publisher, and Owner
Rochester Business Journal

2021

Mark Davitt
CEO
Conserve

2020

Sue Butler
Co-Founder
Butler/Till

Tracy Till
Co-Founder
Butler/Till

2019

Michael Mandina
President
Optimax

Richard Plympton
CEO
Optimax

2018

John "Dutch" Summers
CEO
Jasco/Graywood Companies

2017

Giovanni (John) LiDestri
CEO
LiDestri Food & Drink

2016

Thomas Bonadio
CEO & Managing Partner
The Bonadio Group

2015

John Smith
Chairman & CEO
Brite Computers

2014

Mike Nuccitelli
President & CEO
Parlec, Inc.

Ron Ricotta
President & CEO
Century Mold Co., Inc.

2013

Robert Morgan
Founder & CEO
Morgan Management

2012

Ernest J. Del Monte
CEO
E.J. Del Monte Corporation

2011

Doug Brush
Chairman
Sentry Group

Jim Brush
CEO
Sentry Group

2010

William Pollock
Founder & President
Optimization Technology, Inc.

2009

Mary C. Van Bortel
Owner
Van Bortel Auto Group

2008

James E. Hammer
President & CEO
Hammer Packaging Corp.

2007

Richard A. Kaplan
President & CEO
Pictometry International Corp.

2006

Arunas A. Chesonis
Chairman & CEO
Paetec Corp.

2005

E. Philip Saunders
Chairman
Griffith Energy

2004

R. Wayne LeChase
CEO & General Partner
LeChase Construction Services, LLC

2003

Joseph M. Loboza II
Founder & CEO
JML Optical Industries, Inc.

2002

Dennis Kessler
Vice President
Kessler Group, Inc.

2001

Larry Kessler
President
Kessler Group, Inc.

2000

Richard Sands
Chairman, President & CEO
Constellation Brands, Inc.

2000

Christine B. Whitman
Chairman, President & CEO
CVC, Inc.

1999

Nelson Leenhouts
Founder, CEO & Chairman
Home Properties of New York, Inc.

Norman Leenhouts
Founder, CEO & Chairman
Home Properties of New York, Inc.

1998

Dilip R. Vellodi
CEO
The Sutherland Group, Ltd.

1996

Jay M. Eastman
Senior Vice President
PSC, Inc.

L. Michael Hone
Chairman of the Board & CEO
PSC, Inc.

1995

Valerie D. Mannix
President
Mercury Print Productions, Inc.

1994

Burton August
Founder & Director
Monro Muffler Brake, Inc.

Charles August
Founder & Director
Monro Muffler Brake, Inc.

1993

Richard T. Aab
Chairman of the Board & CEO
ACC Corp.

1992

Bal Dixit
Founder & President
Newtex Industries

1991

Robert B. Wegman
Chairman of the Board & CEO
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

1990

Brigitte Gueldenpfennig
Vice President
Redcom Laboratories, Inc.

Klaus Gueldenpfennig
President
Redcom Laboratories, Inc.

1989

Louise Woerner
President & Owner
HCR

1987

B. Thomas Golisano
Chairman & CEO
Paychex, Inc.

1986

Max Farash
Chairman of the Board & CEO
The Farash Corporation

1985

Robert H. Hurlbut
President, Director & Founder
Vari-Care, Inc.

1984

Herman A. Affel, Jr.
Chairman of the Board & CEO
Computer Consoles, Inc.

Jeffrey Tai
Senior VP, Products Group
Computer Consoles, Inc.

Herbert W. Vanden Brul



Following his military service and earning a juris doctor degree from St. John's School of Law, Rochester native Herbert W. Vanden Brul returned to his hometown in 1951 to begin his new career practicing law.

An entrepreneurial visionary in Rochester, Mr. Vanden Brul co-founded several business ventures in the region. One of his most successful, RF Communications, Inc., has since become a division of Harris Corporation. Another, the Culver Management Corporation, acquired nearly one million square feet of local industrial space to become the home of many small start-ups companies who have improved the local economic climate.

Until his death in 2003, Mr. Vanden Brul continued to pursue his business interests. He served on the boards of Ormec Systems, Inc. and the Genesee Valley Trust Company, Inc., and was active in the cultural and educational life of the Rochester community. Mr. Vanden Brul and his wife Joan, who passed away in 2007, had a long association with RIT and were active members of the Nathaniel Rochester Society. Their two sons attended RIT.

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Rochester Institute of Technology, founded 1829

rit.edu/business/vanden-brul