

*News Release:*

## **Employment Resource Group Inc. Wins Chamber's "Rising Star" Award**

Appleton, WI (June 9, 2004) – Employment Resource Group Inc., an executive search firm based in Menasha, Wisconsin, today was honored with the "Rising Star" Award from the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The award is presented annually to a "relatively new, up-and-coming small business," according to Benjamin Lasiewicz at the Chamber. "The award recognizes the fact that starting a business requires a unique blend of vision, energy, perseverance and skills. It is given to those ventures that have gotten off to a strong start and exhibit the potential for growing into a prosperous enterprise in the future."

Sharon Hulce, president and CEO of ERG, accepted the award at the June 9 luncheon of Fox Cities small business owners, staff members and other supporters. She took the opportunity to praise her staff for their dedication and determination to succeed. "I can honestly say we wouldn't be here today if not for a dream," Hulce told the group of 500 assembled for the program. "Starting this company two years ago was my dream, and as we grew our company, our dreams grew, too.

"Earlier this year we set a goal as a team – to win the Rising Star Award. We set steps to achieve it, and we all worked at it," she continued. "And here we all are today. I am so proud of the commitment demonstrated by every one of you."

ERG's growth curve has been admirable over the past two years. Hulce founded ERG in August 2002 with a two-person staff. In 2003, she grew her own staff as well as engineered a merger with another Management Recruiters International office in Kimberly to create a 15-person employee roster. In 2004, not only were more professional recruiters added, but ERG broadened its staff to include a trainer and employee coach, a vice president of Leadership Strategies and an internal accountant. With the added staff, consulting capabilities were added to the firm, especially in the area of executive coaching and communications.

In closing her remarks, Hulce quoted John Sculley, former CEO of Pepsi and Apple Computer. "Sculley once said, 'The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious.' And that's what we have here today – a room full of people who see possibilities and work hard to make something happen.

"This is wonderful company to be in, and I thank you for allowing us to be part of it."