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Shellee and Tony Williamson '87 receive Entrepreneurs of the Year Award

Summary: The Metropolitan Economic Development Association honored the Williamsons for their business success and for "giving back."

(July 2, 2009)-Shellee and Tony Williamson '87, co-founders of AJASA Technologies, Inc., were honored at the 2009 Recognition Dinner of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) as the Charles W. Poe Jr. Entrepreneurs of the Year Award recipients.

MEDA's announcement of the Williamsons' award states: "Hard work and a companywide culture of professionalism, responsiveness, confidentiality, delivery, and quality, have made Tony and Shellee role models for the business community. Their involvement with their place of worship, The Phyllis Wheatley Community Center's Camp for Children, the University of Minnesota, Morris Bill Stewart Scholarship Fund, First Tee of Augusta (Youth Golf), and the Crystal Care Center also makes them role models for all entrepreneurs as they make philanthropy part of their business. Tony and Shellee have always focused on creating a good life for themselves and their family and never take success for granted. As they are reaching for their dreams, they give back just as much as they receive and help others take positive steps toward their dreams, too."

CEO Tony and Shellee formed their consulting and staffing company in 1995 with a mission to provide excellent service from highly qualified IT professionals, to fairly pay contractors, and to make a fair profit. With a long-term vision in place and committed to success, they named the company using the first letter of the first name of each member of their family: Anthony IV, Julius, Aiyla, Shellee, and Anthony III. Tony first worked in software development and business development. Shellee performed back-office functions and set the customer service and delivery vision.

By 2008, built on solid ethical standards and a philosophy of quality and fairness, AJASA had grown to over \$45 million in revenue and more than 100 employees and 275 subcontractors. AJASAs list among its customers Ameriprise Financial, American Express, Wells Fargo Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank, Travelers Insurance, Target, Ecolab, and General Mills.

Tony, a business and economics graduate, serves as a member of the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Photo: Shellee and Tony Williamson '87

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