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**New Enterprise Forum Celebrates 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary,  
Presents Annual Entrepreneur Awards**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., February 6, 2007 – New Enterprise Forum will celebrate its 21<sup>st</sup> year as a resource for Michigan entrepreneurs in conjunction with its annual entrepreneur awards presentations. The event takes place at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15 at the Holiday Inn North Campus on 3600 Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

At the event, a number of awards will be given to recognize the best NEF entrepreneur presentations from 2006. In addition, Mahendra Ramsinghani will be honored with a special award for his years of service and accomplishment on behalf of entrepreneurs while at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Dick Beedon will be named NEF's Entrepreneur of the Year.

Mahendra Ramsinghani of Plymouth Venture Partners has been instrumental in the growth of the venture capital industry in Michigan, most recently as director of venture capital initiatives at the MEDC, where he worked others to establish the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund. While at MEDC, Mahendra participated in the design of two fund-of-funds programs, managed four limited partnership investments and supported the development of the Ann Arbor Angels, the Great Lakes Angels, and the Grand Angels in Michigan. Mahendra also served as a board member of the Michigan Venture Capital Association. His efforts have increased the amount of capital available to the venture community, resulting in more investment in small and start-up businesses in Michigan.

Dick Beedon of Entyre has spent 30 years in the technology arena. During that time, he has been the financial and strategic architect in the successful formation, funding, growth, and sale/IPO of three companies. Dick's latest venture was the acquisition and subsequent turnaround of Entyre Doc Prep. Dick bought the service company and led the creation of the mortgage industry's leading web services document creation and management software product. The company was sold to Wolters Kluwer, a multi-billion dollar financial services company based out of Amsterdam.

Each month, NEF highlights one or more emerging companies and provides them a Showcase Presentation. In February, the Showcase Presenter will be Greg Guidice of Razor Threat, a network security and vulnerabilities management company.

Registration and networking begin at 5 p.m. with the program starting at 5:45 p.m. Free to NEF members and journalists, the cost is \$20 for non-members, \$5 for students. The February event is sponsored stakeholder sponsor Bank of Ann Arbor.

## **ABOUT NEF**

Through its hands-on work with entrepreneurs, NEF has been planting the seeds for Michigan's economic prosperity for over two decades. NEF serves Michigan entrepreneurs by linking them with management expertise, venture partners, business services, capital, and other critical resources. NEF also provides free coaching teams who assist entrepreneurs with investor presentations and business planning in preparation for fundraising meetings. For more information, please visit [www.nef.bizserve.com](http://www.nef.bizserve.com).