

BCN

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Huston Patterson Captures Top AICC/BCN Innovation Award

by Jackie Schultz

Decatur, Illinois based Huston Patterson won the AICC/*Board Converting News* 2007 Innovator of the Year award for its training program. The award was announced at the AICC's Annual Meeting, held on October 10-12 in Minneapolis. Huston Patterson, a large litho label and top sheet printer, is an AICC Associate Member.

Every Huston Patterson employee must complete four company-wide required courses as well as several elective courses, depending on departmental requirements. Twenty-five elective courses are available to improve skill levels and facilitate cross training. All participants are tested and receive certification for completing courses.

The curriculum was developed by in-house personnel and industry specialists and includes 10 areas of study.

Huston Patterson has a dedicated theater that can accommodate 24 people. It includes classroom style seating and full audiovisual capabilities. The company makes the theater available to clients, vendors, industry partners and other organizations, as well as employees.

Positive Results

Since implementing the program, Huston Patterson has experienced a 3 to 5 percent increase in productivity and a 10 percent reduction in waste.

This year's Innovator of the Year category was "Information Technology and Training." The competition

featured information technology and training innovations developed since October 2004. There were 14 entries and six finalists. AICC meeting attendees voted for the first, second and third place winners after viewing a video about each entry.

Kell Container won second place for its company-



Tom Kowa, President of Huston Patterson, left, accepts the Innovator of the Year award from Board Converting News' Publisher Tom Vilardi, Innovation Committee Chairman Greg Tucker of Bay Cities Container, and Board Converting News' Editor In Chief Jim Curley.

wide training and standard operating procedures manuals, and Bobst Group North America received third place for its InTouch online parts ordering and management.

Next year's competition, which will take place at AICC's Annual Meeting held during SuperCorrExpo '08 in Atlanta, will focus on machinery innovations.