

## **DOERLE FOOD SERVICES, LLC**

### **MANAGING DIRECTOR / CEO CAROLYN DOERLE**

**is an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year<sup>®</sup> 2012 finalist in Gulf Coast Area**

**Houston, TX, May 4, 2012** – Ernst & Young, today announced that Managing Director/CEO Carolyn Doerle was named a finalist in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year<sup>®</sup> 2012 program in the Gulf Coast Area. The award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Carolyn Doerle was selected from over seventy nominations by a panel of independent judges. Awards were presented at a special gala on June 21, 2012 at the Houston Hilton America's.

Now in its 26th year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Program has expanded to recognize business leaders in more than 140 cities in more than 50 countries throughout the world.

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the Ernst & Young National Entrepreneur Of The Year Program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the Ernst & Young National Entrepreneur Of The Year Overall Award winner, will be announced at the annual awards gala in Palm Springs, California, on November 17, 2012. The awards are the culminating event of the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies.

#### **Doerle Food Services, LLC**

Doerle Food Services, LLC is an innovative independent food service distributor with a diversified customer base. Doerle Food Service operates in a mode of strategic planning and offers superior products and services at competitive pricing with up-to-date technology solutions.

Doerle Food Service was founded in 1950 by Paul A. Doerle, Sr. as a two-man operation selling produce from the back of a single truck and housed in what was once a cow barn. Since then it has grown into a multi-million dollar distributor of meats, canned goods, produce, paper, chemicals, and janitorial supplies. Corporate headquarters with distribution center is located in Broussard, Louisiana, with satellite distribution centers in Shreveport and Port Fourchon, Louisiana and Pasadena, Texas. The latter two locations service the Energy and Marine segments from Corpus Christi, Texas to Mobile, Alabama, while Broussard and Shreveport locations supply restaurant, casinos, nursing homes, hospitals, convenience stores, schools, prisons and hotels. Doerle Food Services is locally owned and carry a tradition from excellence.

#### **About Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year<sup>®</sup>**

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. The unique award makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential, and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global award of its kind, Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 140 cities in more than 50 countries.

# Carolyn Doerle, CEO, Doerle Food Services LLC

 Ernst & Young  
Entrepreneur Of The Year®  
2012 Finalist

## Logistics and Industrial Supplies — Finalist

One of Carolyn Doerle's biggest strengths is her management style. She blends being a bold decision-maker with being intuitive at the same time. She believes a leader must be able to make informed decisions in a timely manner.

In 2003, Doerle made the decision to buy out her father and family to become the sole owner and CEO of Doerle Food Services LLC, an independent food distributor. Under Doerle's leadership, the company has grown revenue 800 percent. That growth is due in part to one of Doerle's riskiest decisions but also the company's largest turning point—she purchased a new facility in Broussard that was nearly five times the size of their current facility in New Iberia, without the demand to utilize it.



Within three months of purchasing the new distribution center in Broussard, an opportunity presented itself. The Sonic and Subway chains of Louisiana and Mississippi approached Doerle Foods. Doerle had six weeks to demonstrate it had the infrastructure to meet the contract specifications. In those six weeks, Doerle expanded its new plant to full operation, hired and trained more than 100 new employees, purchased 28 new trucks and 40 trailers and hired truck drivers from all over Louisiana, resulting in both the Sonic and Subway contracts. The company still has those contracts today.

Doerle has lived by her philosophy, "An opportunity is never lost; if you don't take it, then someone else will." The company's business depends upon all its resources operating efficiently and effectively. Doerle and her management team pride themselves on being nimble and flexible for their customers. The company's ability to provide what its customers need on short notice is what sets it apart from the large foodservice providers.



Ernst & Young  
Entrepreneur Of The Year®



**Carolyn T. Doerle**  
Doerle Food Services, LLC

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As seen in *Smart Business Magazine*