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## National Magazine Recognizes Solid Cactus

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By Sarah Buynovsky

A national business publication honored a small firm in Wilkes-Barre.

Solid Cactus is a Wilkes-Barre based web design company. When it started back in 2001 there were only a handful of employees there, but now there are more than 100.

Because of that, the company has ranked the 255th fastest growing in the nation. It's listed in the latest edition of Inc. Magazine.

"For us to receive this award and recognition as one of the fastest growing companies in America is very impressive and we're very, very pleased," said Solid Cactus president Scott Sanfilippo.

A year ago Pepperjam, another tech company in Wilkes-Barre, was featured in Inc. Magazine for its growth.

The head of the city's chamber of commerce said these are all signs Wilkes-Barre is moving in the right direction.

"Our local entrepreneurs are as good as entrepreneurs in any other part of the country. And it says to people who want to be entrepreneurs that you can take resources here and be successful," said Todd Vonderheid.

He added the secret of successful tech companies like Solid Cactus and Pepperjam is that they're attracting young workers from local colleges and universities.

Sarah Johnson of Clarks Summit was planning to move away for work before finding opportunity to stay by working at Solid Cactus.

"I wanted to stay here in northeastern Pennsylvania and I know Pennsylvania has been asking the young people to stay and I have an opportunity to stay and Solid Cactus is one of the greatest places to work in northeastern Pennsylvania," Johnson said.

Sanfilippo said he's thrilled to be part of Wilkes-Barre's growing tech boom and hopeful his company will continue the trend.

"We have plans to create jobs up to over 250 by the end of 2009. We have many new products we plan to roll out by the end of the year and we just plan to keep growing here in Luzerne County," Sanfilippo added.



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