

Pettit Memorial Excellence in Leadership Award

Purpose:

Presented in memory of **Russell E. Pettit**, longtime CEO of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, this award honors a chamber executive with a long record of advancing professionalism and encouraging others to pursue chamber careers. Unlike other awards, it is not based on one year of performance but on **sustained contributions to the profession.**

Eligibility:

- Any chamber CEO or department head who is a W.A.C.E. member in good standing.
- Nominations may be made by regional associations or by any **three W.A.C.E. members.**

Application Elements:

- Nomination letter(s) outlining the nominee's contributions to peers, mentoring, and professional development in the chamber industry.
- Documentation of sustained leadership and service.
- Testimonials from peers or mentees (recommended).

Judging Criteria:

- Long-term contributions to advancing chamber professionalism (40%)
- Mentorship and encouragement of peers and future leaders (30%)
- Service to the chamber profession and W.A.C.E. (20%)

Demonstrated commitment to unselfish leadership (10%)