

BUSINESS

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iTen Wired up for excellence award

From staff reports

Pensacola's iTen Wired initiative is a finalist — nominated for Excellence in Business Recruitment — for the annual ITFlorida statewide awards, one of only four honored.

The iTen Wired initiative is a regional entrepreneurial program designed to help the area remain competitive in the global economy by telling the success stories of technology-based entrepreneurial companies.

Spearheaded by the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Com-

merce along with regional economic development partners in Mobile, Baldwin, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties, it connects entrepreneurs across the region to assets that help them grow their companies in Pensacola and along the Gulf Coast.

"I'm honored to be a part of iTen Wired," said Thomas M. Pigoski, president and CEO of TECHSOFT, a Pensacola-based company known worldwide in the field of software engineering. "Using technology to bring



Pigoski

people together and making resources more readily available is a true asset for Gulf Coast entrepreneurs."

iTen Wired has successfully connected multiple entrepreneurial groups and organizations for the first time, including IT Gulf Coast and High Growth Business Club in Pensacola, TECMEN in Fort Walton Beach and the Gulf Coast Technology Council in

Mobile. Those groups represent over 100 technology entrepreneurs across the five-county region.

iTen Wired has successfully:

- Showcased the region's technology entrepreneurs.
- Identified success stories across the region.
- Connected entrepreneurs to resources and assets that can help grow their businesses.
- Connected entrepreneurs, researchers, universities, investors and military innovations.
- Created an on-line resume



Adams

bank through its sister site, the iTen Talent Center.

"Thanks to iTen Wired, for the first time ever Pensacola is successfully competing on not only a state level but truly on a national recruiting level," said Blaise Adams, chairman of the chamber's Economic Development Council.

"We were thrilled to find such

an excellent new success story from the Northwest Florida area," said Matt Doster, ITFlorida executive director.

ITFlorida is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents Florida's diverse information technology businesses and communities on a statewide basis. Its awards ceremony and tech forum will be held Tuesday, featuring keynote speaker Jimmy Wales, founder and creator of Wikipedia.

For more information on iTen Wired, visit www.itenwired.com.