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The Black Data Processing Associates-Twin Cities (BDPA) will honor the Twin Cities' top IT professionals at its fifth annual awards ceremony on Friday, Jan. 8, 2010. Music industry producer Andre Fischer, recognized for producing and arranging Natalie Cole's Grammy award-winning album "Unforgettable," will keynote the BDPA's ceremony -- "Challenges for Today, Strategies for Tomorrow."

Fischer is responsible for producing, performing and recording with many of the music industry's most gifted pop, R&B, rock and jazz performers. In 2007, he was named the executive director of music industries at the Institute of Production and Recording (IPR) in Minneapolis.

The emcee, Dawn Stevens, reporter and weekend news anchor for Fox 9 News, will create a most memorable evening as the BDPA recognizes an IT Black Professional, the IT Business Enterprise of the Year and the students who participated in the 2009 BDPA-Twin Cities Community Youth technology programs, which includes the BDPA National High School Computer Competition team, High School Technology Program and the Community IT Youth summer camp. The BDPA will pay special recognition to the Minnesota high school competition team, which won 4th Place at the National BDPA High School Competition in Raleigh, NC. Each student earned a \$1000 Bemley College Scholarship.

The event's sponsors include 3M Co., Medtronic, Ajasa Technologies and Keystone Computer Solutions.

The BDPA awards ceremony, open to the public, will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 35 S 7th Street in downtown Minneapolis. The social hour begins at 6 pm; the dinner and awards ceremony begin at 7:30 pm.

The cost is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members. Register and pay by credit card at www.bdpatc.org, or <http://bdpatcawardsregistration.eventbrite.com>. Registrations may be mailed to Twin Cities BDPA-Dinner Reservation, 2399 Ariel Street, Suite A, St. Paul, MN 55109.

For more information about the Black Data Processing Associates –Twin Cities Chapter, visit

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www.bdpatc.org; to learn about the national chapter at www.bdpa.org.