



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mutual Fund Companies Honored for Communications Excellence

The Mutual Fund Education Alliance announced winners of the 2011 **STAR Awards** for Excellence in mutual fund marketing and communications Thursday evening at The Mid-America Club in Chicago. The **STAR Awards**, celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, are presented annually by the Mutual Fund Education Alliance (MFEA), a national mutual fund industry trade association, and have become a prestigious recognition of companies in the fund industry who excel in marketing, education and communications for shareholders, advisors, plan participants and the investing public. Top awards for outstanding overall communications were presented, as well as awards for achievement in specific categories, based on a company's assets under management.

The top **STAR Awards** for Excellence in Overall Communications were presented to the following:

RETAIL COMMUNICATIONS		
Small Companies	Up to \$5 billion in assets	Saturna Capital
Medium Companies	\$5 - \$35 billion in assets	Matthews Asia Funds
Large Companies	Over \$35 but under \$100 billion in assets	American Century Investments
Large Plus Companies	Over \$100 billion in assets	Franklin Templeton Investments
ADVISOR COMMUNICATIONS		
Medium Companies	\$5 - \$35 billion in assets	RidgeWorth Investments
Large Companies	Over \$35 but under \$100 billion in assets	Putnam Investments
Large Plus Companies	Over \$100 billion in assets	OppenheimerFunds
PLAN PARTICIPANT COMMUNICATIONS		
Large Companies	Over \$35 but under \$100 billion in assets	New York Life Retirement Plan Services
Large Plus Companies	Over \$100 billion in assets	Vanguard

Attached is a complete list of the STAR Awards winners in all categories.

Now in its 15th year, the **STAR Awards** program continues to distinguish itself as the premier fund industry competition and is unique in that members of the MFEA serve as judges and evaluate the programs of their peers. That, according to MFEA Program Director Kimber Lintz, is one of the most gratifying aspects of the awards program. "To be fairly evaluated by your colleagues, who are your competitors, provides a great sense of achievement," says Lintz.

In addition, the prestigious **Community Investment Award** was presented to Saturna Capital and American Century Investments. (See separate press release for details.)

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The Mutual Fund Education Alliance is a national trade association of mutual fund firms providing a unique forum to exchange ideas and discuss issues that help make their businesses successful. Since 1971, the MFEA has been dedicated to informing and educating the investing public about how to achieve important lifetime goals using mutual funds.

