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April 17, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRINTING INDUSTRY HONORS ITS BEST

St. Paul, MN – The Printing Industry of Minnesota held its annual banquet and premier awards ceremony, the Star of Excellence Awards Banquet, on April 16, 2009 at the Earle Brown Center. Among the top awards were one for leadership, one for printing excellence and one for the Customer Service Representative of the Year.

The Graphic Arts Industry Leader of the Year was awarded this year to Dan Thornton, Vice President, RR Donnelley. The past recipients select each new member of this elite list annually. The award has been given by PIM since 1972. Dan was chosen for his leadership in serving on the PIM Board support of PIM through donation of print services and participation in PIM events, and his support of the graphic arts industry through his activities in post-secondary education and representing industry interests to state and national government bodies. This award is presented to an outstanding individual who is truly an ambassador of print, and Dan certainly exemplifies that.

The evening was rounded out with the announcement of the Star of Excellence Best of Show. This year's winner, chosen by a panel of qualified judges, was *Printing Arts Environmental Brochure* by Printing Arts, Inc. A beautiful piece of work that was praised by the judges for its tonality and contrast, along with color depth and fine printing execution, this piece is something to be proud of. There was also an Honorable Mention. The judges felt that the piece called *Gallup Studios, Images That Live* by The John Roberts Company, was worthy of special mention.

Carmen Neutgens, Maximum Graphics received the first annual Customer Service Award. Carmen was nominated for her outstanding work with customers and co-workers by Don Johnson, Vice President at Maximum Graphics.

PIM enjoys recognizing its members for their hard work, and the evening was a great success. PIM sponsors several member events throughout the year, including a Golf Outing and a Print Showcase trade show. For more information about PIM and its members, please visit www.pimn.org.