



Contact Shawn L. Smith  
S&S Electric Co., Inc.  
813-855-6692  
ShawnSmith@ss-electric.com

---

For Immediate Release

## **S&S Electric Co., Inc. Lights Up Florida Family Business of the Year Awards Banquet**

**TAMPA, FL (May 16, 2003)** – S&S Electric Co., Inc., an Oldsmar, FL, home systems contractor, was recognized as first runner up in the Large Business Category at the 2003 Florida Family Business Awards Banquet. The banquet, sponsored by the Florida Family Business Program at the John H. Sykes College of Business at The University of Tampa, seeks to recognize and honor the best in Florida family-owned businesses. The Large Business Category honors those firms with 250 or more employees, and examines the economic performance, community service and industry innovations of each nominee. In all, over 250 companies were nominated in this year's competition, held on May 16th at the University's new Vaughn Center.

S&S Electric, founded in 1947, is a leading provider of home electrical, air conditioning, and structured cabling systems installations in West Central Florida. The company is headquartered in Oldsmar with offices in Tampa, Sarasota and Naples. Today, the company performs over 4,000 expert installations annually for many of the nation's top home builders on Florida's Gulf Coast. What makes S&S Electric unique is the company's desire to work with builders and their buyers to personalize their home systems to meet each family's unique lifestyle.

"We are extremely gratified by this award," said Vern Smith, President of S&S Electric. "It shows that the family values, business practices and customer service traditions instilled in this company by my father and company founder Sheldon Smith create a lasting impact, not only in terms of dollars but also customer satisfaction and retention. We are proud to accept this significant recognition on behalf of our loyal customers and our valued team members, whose tremendous effort and superior workmanship help make awards like this possible. We appreciate their daily contributions to our success as a company."

"One of the greatest challenges in leading a family business is allocating time to both the family and the business to assure the success of both. Family businesses are the foundation for the communities in which they reside," said Joseph McCann, Dean of the University of Tampa's College of Business. "When you look at the back of the Little League jerseys, you don't see General Motors on there. You see family businesses. Their impact is truly profound, beyond just an economic impact."

The contributions of S&S Electric in the community do indeed go beyond the jobs and benefits it provides employees. The company actively supports the educational efforts and medical research conducted by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. Continuing support for education efforts is provided to many of the schools in the Oldsmar community. Lastly, the company places special emphasis on all enrichment events hosted by the City of Oldsmar.

### **About the Florida Family Business Program (<http://ffb.ut.edu/>)**

The Florida Family Business Program is located in the John H. Sykes College of Business at The University of Tampa, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606-1490. The University's AACSB accredited College of Business is housed in an 80,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility that boasts the Huizenga Family Foundation Trading Center as one

- MORE -

---

of its technological centerpieces. Here, future family business entrepreneurs can experience real-time trading of information necessary to bridge the gap between academia and the business environment. The college and university have a long history of many relationships with successful Florida entrepreneurs and family business owners.

The Florida Family Business Program collaborates with the Florida Family Business Forum on workshops and meetings with nationally prominent experts on family business issues. Discussions of real life experiences shared by other forum members also add insight into the personal and family business principles and values that form the basis of family business success and continuity. The program promotes life-long learning for family business representatives as well as prepares the next generation for leading the family business to future success.

Florida Family Business Award sponsors provide advisory services in critical areas such as law, accounting, estate planning, retirement, finance, insurance, marketing and other issues of importance. Through panels at the award events and individual consultation, family business owners have access to experts on a variety of subjects.

#### **About the Florida Family Business Forum**

Founded in 1996, the Florida Family Business Forum's mission is to provide an open, educational environment where leaders of local family businesses can meet to develop insights, knowledge and motivation aimed at achieving excellence in the challenges unique to family-owned businesses. Membership is limited to 50 Family Businesses. Advisors/sponsors are exclusive in their specialty and may not solicit organizations met through the Forum. The Forum meets quarterly and are considering establishing special interest discussion groups as a means of furthering its goals.

#### **About S&S Electric Co., Inc. ([www.ss-electric.net](http://www.ss-electric.net))**

**S&S Electric Co., Inc. is West Central Florida's premier home systems contractor for many of the nation's top homebuilders. With more than 250 employees and offices in Oldsmar, Tampa, Sarasota and Naples, the company installs over 4,000 systems in homes annually. S&S Electric's extensive service offering includes electrical, air conditioning, and structured cabling systems, as well as the expertise of an award-winning team of designers, installers and technicians recognized throughout the industry for providing customers with value-added, reliable, quality system installations. As a reflection of its "customer first" orientation and history, S&S Electric operated under the slogan, "Installing confidence since 1947."**

###