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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Diana Caldwell Pearl Pathways Business: (317) 899-9341 contact@pearlpathways.com www.pearlpathways.com

Pearl Pathways Honored as One of the 2014 Indiana Companies to Watch

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (July 17, 2014)– Pearl Pathways has been recognized as one of the 2014 Indiana Companies to Watch, an awards program presented by the Indiana Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (OSBE), its Indiana Small Business Development Center, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), and endorsed by the Edward Lowe Foundation.

"We are honored with this recognition and humbled to be associated with such an impressive list of companies. We believe that our business model is poised to embrace the trends in outsourcing in the life science industry," shares Diana Caldwell, President and CEO of Pearl Pathways.

Twenty-seven companies from Indiana will be honored as outstanding second-stage companies during the fifth annual Indiana Companies to Watch awards program, held on August 20 in Indianapolis.

Companies to Watch is an awards program that celebrates Indiana's privately-held second-stage companies, those businesses that are past the startup phase, are considered to be established, and face issues of growth, not survival.

Companies honored range in industries and have headquarters based in 12 counties throughout the state. Among the 27 honored companies in 2014 is Pearl Pathways.

About Pearl Pathways

Pearl Pathways is a comprehensive life science product development services company. Our experienced team is obsessed with expediting life science product development regulatory pathways. We have three business units to serve you:

Pearl IRB is a full service commercial Independent Review Board that provides human research IRB reviews, IRB exemptions and waivers, and also offers support for research protocol/ICF medical writing, site assessments, and monitoring services.

Pearl ReGXP is a regulatory and quality compliance consulting practice that provides regulatory filing guidance, conducts global health authority negotiations, develops/improves quality systems, and delivers GMP/GLP/GCP auditing services.

29 EAST MCCARTY STREET, SUITE 100 INDIANAPOLIS, IN • 46225 PHONE: (317) 899-9341 • FAX: (317) 602-6554 EMAIL: CONTACT@PEARLPATHWAYS.COM

Pearl IDEAS provides strategic product development assistance, third party vendor selection and management strategies, due diligence services, and sales and marketing services for drug, biologic and device companies.

From 2010 through 2013, these companies generated \$379 million in revenue and added 622 employees (both in Indiana and out of state), reflecting a 120 percent increase in revenue and 96 percent increase in jobs for the four-year period. That translates into a 40 percent annual revenue growth and 32 percent annual growth in employees.

These companies project continued growth in 2014, with a 50 percent revenue increase and 26 percent growth in employees (both in Indiana and out of state) compared to 2013. If their projections hold, these companies will have generated \$612 million in revenue and added 764 employees over the last five years — a 301 percent increase in revenue and 185 percent increase in jobs since 2010.

This program would not be possible without the generous support of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and endorsed by the Edward Lowe Foundation. Sponsors include the Barnes & Thornburg, Katz Sapper & Miller, Key Bank and Ivy Tech Corporate College.

Companies to Watch firms must employ between six and 150 full-time equivalent employees, have between \$750,000 and \$100 million in annual revenue or working capital in place, and demonstrate the intent and capacity to grow based on employee or sales growth, exceptional entrepreneurial leadership, sustainable competitive advantage or other notable strengths.

About OSBE

Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, the Indiana Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (OSBE) oversees the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC), the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), and the Indiana Small Business Ombudsman. The OSBE staff helps grow the Indiana economy by assisting entrepreneurs and small businesses through programs and personal consultation. For more information on OSBE and to see how Indiana is "the state that works" for entrepreneurs visit <u>www.osbe.in.gov</u>.

About the ISBDC

As part of OSBE, the ten Indiana Small Business Development Centers (ISBDC) support the formation, growth, and sustainability of Indiana's small businesses by providing entrepreneurs expert guidance and access to a network of resources. Funding for the regional ISBDCs comes from state universities, chambers of commerce, economic development offices, mayor offices, and banks. Statewide financial support is provided by U.S. Small Business Administration, the State of Indiana and Ivy Tech Community College. Administratively, the ISBDC Lead Center is operated by the Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (OSBE), an agency of the Office of Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann. To learn more about the ISBDC and to become a client visit: <u>http://isbdc.org.</u>

About Indiana Companies to Watch

Indiana Companies to Watch is an awards program celebrating second-stage entrepreneurs presented by the Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, its Small Business Development Center, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and endorsed by the Edward Lowe Foundation. Sponsors include the Barnes & Thornburg, Katz Sapper & Miller, Key Bank and Ivy Tech Corporate College.

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To learn more, please visit us at <u>www.pearlpathways.com</u>, call us at (317) 899-9341, or email <u>contact@pearlpathways.com</u>. Pearl Pathways is located in Indianapolis, Indiana, and is a WBENC certified woman owned business. For media inquiries, contact Diana Caldwell at <u>dcaldwell@pearlpathways.com</u>.