

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



2024 Award Winner



## **EY Announces Jon M. Williams of Viridi Parenteas an Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2024 New York Award Finalist**

*Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates ambitious entrepreneurs who are shaping the future*

**Buffalo, New York , May 2, 2024** – Ernst & Young LLP (EY US) today announced that Jon M. Williams of Viridi Parente, Inc. (Viridi) was named an Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2024 New York Award finalist. The New York program celebrates entrepreneurs from New York and Connecticut. Now in its 38th year, Entrepreneur Of The Year is the preeminent competitive business award for audacious leaders who disrupt markets, revolutionize sectors and have a transformational impact on lives. Over the past four decades, the program has recognized the daring entrepreneurs with big ideas and bold actions that reshape our world.

Jon was one of 43 regional entrepreneurs selected as finalists by an independent panel of judges. The candidates were evaluated based on their demonstration of building long-term value through entrepreneurial spirit, purpose, growth and impact, among other core contributions and attributes.

*“I am deeply honored to be named a finalist for this esteemed award, which is a testament to Viridi’s relentless pursuit of revolutionizing battery storage for a safer clean energy future,”* said Jon M. Williams, CEO, Viridi. *“At Viridi, we are not just engineering solutions for today but are firmly committed to ensuring that our progress also promotes job equity. Enabling everyone to access meaningful careers will make a positive impact across the community for generations to come.”*

Entrepreneur Of The Year honors many different types of business leaders for their ingenuity, courage and entrepreneurial spirit. The program celebrates original founders who bootstrapped their business from inception or who raised outside capital to grow their company; transformational CEOs who infused innovation into an existing organization to catapult its trajectory; and multigenerational family business leaders who reimagined a legacy business model to fortify it for the future.

Regional award winners will be announced on June 18th during a special celebration and will become lifetime members of an esteemed community of Entrepreneur Of The Year alumni from around the world. The winners will then be considered by the National judges for the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards, which will be presented in November at the annual **Strategic Growth Forum®**, one of the nation’s most prestigious gatherings of high-growth, market-leading companies.



In addition to Entrepreneur Of The Year, EY US supports other entrepreneurs through the **EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women™** program and the **EY Entrepreneurs Access Network** to help connect women founders and Black and Hispanic/Latino entrepreneurs, respectively, with the resources, network and access needed to unlock their full potential.

## **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards include presenting sponsors PNC Bank, Cresa, Marsh USA, SAP and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In New York, sponsors also include regional Platinum sponsors Donnelley Financial Solutions (DFIN), regional Gold sponsors, ADP, DLA Piper and Empire Valuation Consultants.

## **About Entrepreneur Of The Year®**

Founded in 1986, Entrepreneur Of The Year® has celebrated more than 11,000 ambitious visionaries who are leading successful, dynamic businesses in the US, and it has since expanded to nearly 80 countries and territories globally.

The US program consists of 17 regional programs whose panels of independent judges select the regional award winners every June. Those winners compete for national recognition at the Strategic Growth Forum® in November where National finalists and award winners are announced. The overall National winner represents the US at the World Entrepreneur Of The Year® competition. Visit [ey.com/us/eoy](http://ey.com/us/eoy).

## **About EY**

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Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

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