Approximately 90% of businesses in the U.S. are family firms, ranging from small businesses to industry giants, like Walmart. Running a business isn’t easy, especially when family is added to the mix.

Each fall, Baylor University’s Institute for Family Business takes time to recognize firms whose families demonstrate a commitment to each other and to business continuity through its annual Texas Family Business of the Year Awards. These firms are responsive to the needs of their employees, communities and industries.

Nominations will be accepted from Jan. 9, 2012, to April 13, 2012, for the 23rd annual Texas Family Business of the Year Awards. The awards will be presented in fall 2012 at a banquet on the Baylor campus in Waco, Texas. The awards are open to family businesses headquartered in Texas.

Winners are chosen in three general categories—large (more than 151 employees), medium (51-150 employees) and small (50 or fewer employees). Outstanding firms are also honored in the special categories of Family Values Award, Community Commitment Award, Fastest-Growing Family Business Award, Well-Managed Family Business Award, Founders Award and Heritage Award.

Through various programs, the Institute for Family Business helps to fulfill its mission to provide a forum for the development and dissemination of information relevant to the health and continuity of the family business. Other educational and planning programs available to family business owners through the Institute include annual conferences, breakfast seminar series and forum membership programs.

Enter the 2012 Texas Family Business of the Year Awards, and give your business the credit it deserves.