

ADVANTAGE CAPITAL PARTNERS

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Advantage Capital News

Hospice Partners of Texas obtains \$3.3 million in funding from Advantage Capital Partners

[Advantage Capital](#) recently announced that it provided \$3.3 million in financing to Hospice Partners of Texas, which will enable the company to expand through the acquisition of Alamo Hospice. [Alamo Hospice](#) provides services to terminally ill patients and makes it possible for them to be taken care of in the comfort of their own homes, rather than in the hospital. The funding will allow the company to maintain 70 full-time and a dozen part-time staff in the San Antonio region. To continue reading, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital's investment in Hospice Partners of Texas was made in connection with the [Texas Certified Capital Company program](#).

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Advantage Capital Partners small business lending division, BizCapital, earns top SBA rankings across the board

[BizCapital](#), the small business lending arm of Advantage Capital, has been recognized as a top St. Louis Small Business Administration (SBA) lender by both the St. Louis Business Journal and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Biz Capital, which is also frequently named a top SBA lender in Louisiana, was ranked #2 on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch "[Top SBA lenders in Eastern Missouri](#)" list. BizCapital also ranked highly on the St. Louis Business Journal's "[2010 top SBA lenders in St. Louis](#)" list, coming in at #3 and additionally, earned the #6 spot on their [statewide list](#).

BizCapital has made more than \$100 million in SBA loans and continues to succeed in their mission of helping small-to-mid-sized businesses grow and prosper, while fostering stronger economic growth in local communities. To learn more about BizCapital, click [here](#).

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Advantage Capital Partners honored with multiple awards

Ticker Tape Update:

To date, Advantage Capital has partnered with its portfolio companies to help create more than 15,000 jobs nationwide and our investments have resulted in more than \$6 billion in follow-on capital.

The St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association recently honored [Advantage Capital Partners](#) with the Greater St. Louis Top 50 Award. The Awards Gala and Dinner was held on November 11th at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. This year's winners were judged on their economic impact and civic involvement. To read more about the award, go [here](#).

Advantage Capital partners also received the prestigious 2010 Prosperity Partner of the Year award from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. An annual meeting and awards banquet was held at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel on November 18th. Advantage Capital is the first company to receive the new Prosperity Award, which is designed to recognize a member whose purpose is to foster economic development and the growth of Missouri businesses. To see the entire list of winners, go [here](#).

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Portfolio Company News

Advantage Capital Partners portfolio company Allen Brothers featured in Crain's Chicago Business video

[Allen Brothers](#), a leading supplier of USDA "Prime" grade beef, was highlighted in a recent Crain's video which discusses how the Illinois New Markets investment from Advantage Capital enabled the company to retain 100 full-time jobs. To watch the video, go [here](#).

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) first invested in Allen Brothers in 2009 with funds raised in connection with the Illinois New Markets Development program. To date, Advantage has provided \$9.6 million in financing to support the company's continued growth and new job creation.

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Virent honored in multiple international cleantech company rankings

[Virent Energy Systems, Inc.](#), an energy technology company headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, was recently listed in the 2010 Global Cleantech 100 list. This year's list recognized cleantech companies likely to make the most significant impact in the next five to ten years. Virent was listed under the Energy Generation category and was selected for its demonstration facility where it is converting plant sugars into gasoline and gasoline blend components. To see the complete list, go [here](#).

In a separate list, Virent's CEO, Lee Edwards, and CTO, Randy Cortright, were paired at #28 in the Biofuels Digest "Top 100 People in Bioenergy." The publication honored biofuel leadership in 12 countries. To continue reading, go [here](#).

[Advantage Capital](#) invested in Virent in 2005 with funds raised in connection with the Wisconsin Certified Capital Company program. Virent's BioForming process is a recognized leader in advanced biofuels technologies.

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Roberts Brothers featured on CNN

Michael and Steven Roberts, who have partnered with [Advantage Capital Partners](#) on investments including the Roberts Walthall Hotel, Roberts Orpheum Theatre and Hotel Indigo, were recently featured on CNN. The story, "Mogul brothers offer rich advice in touch

times," was part of the ongoing series "Almighty Debt: A Black in America Special" which premiered in October. In the article, the brothers encourage entrepreneurs not to let the economic downturn be a stumbling block. As Michael Roberts says, "We are in a time like no other time. It's the best time to start a business." To read more go [here](#).

Advantage Capital Partners has invested in several Roberts Brothers projects through the use of funds raised in connection with both federal and state New Markets Tax Credit programs. These projects have allowed for the creation and retention of both permanent and construction jobs, as well as enabling the rehabilitation of multiple vacant, historic hotel properties in underserved communities.

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Stereotaxis awarded \$1.5 million in federal health-care grants

Advantage Capital Partners portfolio company [Stereotaxis, Inc.](#) announced that it has been awarded \$1.5 million in grants under the Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery Project Program. The newly enacted program targets projects that show potential to produce new therapies or medical technologies that reduce the long-term growth of health care costs. The grant will allow Stereotaxis to continue enhancing and expanding the capabilities of their treatments of coronary artery disease and arrhythmias. To read more about the award click [here](#).

St. Louis-based Stereotaxis (NASDAQ: STXS) designs, manufactures and sells medical equipment to treat heart disease. [Advantage Capital](#) was an early investor in Stereotaxis, investing in connection with the federal New Markets Tax Credit program and the Missouri Certified Capital Company program.

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Advantage People



Scott Zajac named St. Louis University Entrepreneurship Champion, Inducted into Alumni Hall of Fame

Advantage Capital Partners senior managing director, [Scott Zajac](#), has been named to St. Louis University's (SLU) Smurfit-Stone Entrepreneurial Alumni Hall of Fame. The prestigious honor in the category of "Entrepreneurship Champion" was presented to Zajac at a ceremony at SLU's John Cook School of Business. In a video interview prepared by SLU, Zajac acknowledged the importance of entrepreneurship, declaring, "There is something about being an entrepreneur that has all of these tremendous possibilities for greatness, having an impact and being able to make your own way." To see the video in its entirety, click [here](#).

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Advantage Capital co-sponsors annual Innostate conference; Tony Toups selected to introduce keynote speaker

In late October, Advantage Capital co-sponsored the (Inno)State: Louisiana's Innovation Summit conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



The annual summit, presented by the [Baton Rouge Area Chamber \(BRAC\)](#), focused on the status of the innovation economy in Louisiana. BRAC is an organization dedicated to fostering a strong, growing economy throughout the Baton Rouge area by serving as the primary advocate for the region's business community. Senior vice president [Tony Toups](#) was invited to introduce the keynote speaker at the event and participated in presentations addressing trends in economic development related to entrepreneurship and innovation.

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About Advantage Capital Partners

[Advantage Capital Partners](#) is a leading small business finance firm focused on providing growth capital and other investments supporting state and local economic development efforts. The firm's typical forms of investment include early stage equity, expansion equity, mezzanine financing, senior and subordinated loans and government-guaranteed lending. With offices and partners in New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago and other U.S. cities, Advantage Capital has raised more than \$1.3 billion in institutional capital since 1992 and invested in companies located in geographic areas underserved by traditional capital.

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About the federal New Markets Tax Credit program

The [federal New Markets Tax Credit program](#), administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, encourages private-sector investment in economically distressed communities through tax incentives. In a highly competitive allocation procedure, the Treasury Department awards the tax credits based on applications submitted for each tax year. Advantage has participated in the New Markets program since 2003, raising private capital for investment in low-income communities. These investments have spurred economic growth through innovative business ventures and job creation throughout the United States.

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About the state New Markets Development programs

In addition to the federal New Markets Tax Credit program, Advantage Capital also participates in a number of state-level New Markets programs, which attract investment in low-income communities through a state tax credit modeled after the federal program. The tax credits are only available to highly qualified investors who have been accredited under the federal program. The goal of these initiatives is to attract large, long-term investors to a state's low-income communities, promoting new expansion, creating new job opportunities and building on existing growth in the state. To date, the following states have passed a state-level New Markets Development program: Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois, Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

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About the Certified Capital Company program

Advantage Capital Partners is a leading participant in the [Certified Capital Company \(CAPCO\) program](#), a state economic development tool designed to strengthen state economies by stimulating the flow of investment capital to local small businesses, creating high-paying jobs and increasing state tax revenues. Under a CAPCO program, insurance companies are encouraged to invest in certified capital companies; the state allows the insurance companies to claim tax credits for qualified investments in CAPCO funds. Taken over time, the tax credits generate large pools of private venture capital to be invested in the state. CAPCOs leverage the funds received from insurance companies to invest in qualified small businesses.

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