

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****December 13, 2024 – Commack, New York****elite | studio e Celebrates Excellence with Annual Awards at 2024 Holiday Party**

elite | studio e proudly honored its outstanding team members at the annual holiday party, celebrating a year of remarkable achievements and growth. With 2025 marking the company's 25th anniversary, the event was a perfect occasion to reflect on the dedication, innovation, and collaboration that define elite's culture. President & COO Ivan J. Weiss shared his thoughts on select winners, highlighting their extraordinary contributions to the company's success.

*Rookie of the Year: Albert Silva, Controller*

Albert Silva joined elite | studio e this year and immediately proved himself to be an invaluable asset to the Accounting Team. With enthusiasm, talent, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, Albert tackled every challenge head-on earning him this accolade which is presented to a new hire.

*Jim Williams Learning Excellence Award: Alexa Astacio, Project Designer*

This award, named after one of elite's first Project Designers, honors a passion for learning and teaching. Alexa Astacio, who focuses predominantly on the interior design and visualization side of the business, embraced the challenges of foodservice design, bringing a commitment to continuous growth and innovation. Her willingness to step out of her comfort zone and mentor others embodies the spirit of this award.

*Circle of Excellence: Erik Davidson, Senior Project Manager, and Jordan Siegler, Project Director*

The Circle of Excellence Award celebrates individuals who exemplify dedication and achievement. Erik Davidson's thoughtful approach and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark, particularly through his work in several major airports this year. Meanwhile, Jordan Siegler's growth within the company has been extraordinary, having worked in several roles at elite | studio e before entering his current client facing position.

*Team of the Year: Marigold*

*Team Lead Chad Weiss; Project Director Vijaye Yarna; Senior Project Designer Natalie Yorey; Project Designers Kevin Nyhus and Jordyn Dane; Project Coordinators Sharon Tompkin and Olivia Grieco*

Team Marigold secured this year's Team of the Year Award after a fierce competition. Their collaborative spirit and collective achievements — from business development to design excellence and project execution — have set them apart. "The synergy within Team Marigold is unmatched," Weiss remarked. "Their dedication and teamwork are what make elite thrive."

*Ruth Weiss Entrepreneurial Spirit Award: Raquel Weiss Fusco, Vice President of Business Development*

Named after Ruth Weiss, a pioneer of entrepreneurial spirit, this special award honors individuals who embody her legacy. Following her term as the Society for Hospitality and Foodservice Management's President, Raquel transitioned to full-time Business Development driving growth and opening new opportunities for elite. "Raquel's ability to connect and innovate is unparalleled," said Weiss. "Her entrepreneurial mindset is shaping our future in exciting ways."

*Team Member of the Year: Natalie Yorey, Senior Project Designer*

The night's highest honor went to Natalie Yorey, whose exceptional work as Senior Project Designer, leadership and growth since 2018 has elevated elite to new heights.

In addition, Eric D. Weiss, the company's Chair, Founder & CEO, made a meaningful presentation to Project Director Vijaye Yarna. The first employee, Vijaye was hired as a CAD designer shortly after the company opened its doors in 2000.

elite|studio e congratulates all the award winners and looks forward to another year of success and innovation as the company celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025.

elite|studio e is a design, build and consulting firm specializing in foodservice and hospitality solutions. With a quarter-century of excellence, the company is committed to delivering innovative and tailored solutions for clients across the country. For more information about elite|studio e, contact Marcy J. Weiss, Director of Marketing, at [mweiss@elitestudioe.com](mailto:mweiss@elitestudioe.com) or 631.420.9400 ext. 114.

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