Some of the truly outstanding individuals and companies in the wall and ceiling industry will receive international honors at the AWCI convention in Montreal.

These are the “Outstanding” awards, given annually by the association to those people and firms that industry people have deemed worthy of recognition. The honorees were selected by an international panel of industry representatives for top honors.

One of the top awards is the J.D. McNulty Award for significant and meaningful research and development. This award will be given to Donald Mehrer, inventor of a vacuum device which sucks away particles during the drywall sanding operation. Mehrer, a former contractor, had such a successful idea that a company, DDM Corporation of Seattle, WA, was formed for the purpose of manufacturing and marketing the unit.

The industry’s highest award—the Pinnacle Award—is not announced prior to the convention. It will be announced at the convention.

The Outstanding Associate Member Award will be presented to John Wagner Associates, of Walnut Creek, CA. The “Grabber” company has long been a major supporter of industry affairs and has been directly involved in various national committees.

James R. Wies, of Wies Drywall and Construction Corporation, St. Louis, MO., will be honored as AWCI’s Outstanding Regional Chairman. Jim was chairman of the Mid-Central Conference, 1981-82.

The Outstanding Young Member of AWCI will be Ben Hogancamp, of Murray, KY. He is chief operating officer of Lassiter Plastering Company, Inc., founded by Lynn P. Lassiter, longtime AWCI member.

Robert C. Knight, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Association of Gypsum Drywall Contractors, has been selected for the Outstanding Industry Employee award. Bob was formerly with the Carpenters union and has been a major contributor to the success of many national and regional programs and activities. This is the second time he has received this honor.

The Outstanding Committee Chairman Award will be going to Fred Treadway, of South Bend, IN. Fred serves as chairman of Technical Subcommittee #9 and has been instrumental in the success of AWCI’s asbestos abatement programs, including the intensive technical seminars on the subject.

Over the years, Ernie Herzfeld, President of Special Sections, of the Bronx, New York City, has worked and assisted in many programs for the wall and ceiling industry. Generally, his contributions have been performed quietly and efficiently. In recognition of his efforts, the industry will name Herzfeld for the “Unsung Hero” award.

AWCI’s “Outstanding” Awards To Be Given at Convention