

# Alumni Profile

## Nieman Plumbing Honored as Family Business

The Drew Nieman family and Nieman Plumbing was recently selected by the Goering Center for Family Business as the 2005 Finalist in the Innovation Category. They were honored along with 11 other leading family businesses for their excellence in family business practices. The Family Business of the Year Dinner, one of the most prestigious recognition events in the community, was held August 30, 2005.



Left to right Brian, Shelli, Drew Nieman, Robert A. Kranz of Cincinnati Growth Partners, JoEllen, A.J. and Beth Nieman at the Goering Family Business of the Year Dinner.

Drew Nieman, class of 1965, founded Drew Nieman Plumbing in 1974 with his wife, JoEllen, as bookkeeper. Due to the hard times in the late 1970s, new construction was minimal so Drew Nieman Plumbing concentrated on service for companies like Jacuzzi. By the mid 1980s, they had successfully worked with a clientele of builders. During the early 1990s, the business almost doubled in volume. In 2004, Nieman Plumbing celebrated 30 years in business with the name change, over 20,000 square feet of office and warehouse space and a fleet of 50 trucks.

Sons A.J. Nieman, class of 1984, and Brian Nieman, class of 1991, joined the firm in the late 80s and early 90s. A.J. is the "outside" project coordinator, chief technology and product development advocate. Brian is the "inside" project estimator, bidding jobs and meeting contractors for special order selections. Many family members have become life-long employees like cousin Ron Bernhardt and daughter-in-law, Shelli Nieman. Drew is still active in the business, but he has begun to delegate more responsibility of the day-to-day operations to his two sons.

Drew strongly believes the old saying, "Treat people the way you would want to be treated." All employees, customers and family receive equal respect and consideration. They communicate openly and honestly on a daily basis.

Nieman Plumbing has provided community support wherever needed. Drew received the Signum Fidei Award in 1990 due to his leadership and hard work in building Lancer Stadium. He was awarded the John Bosse Alumni Service Award

in 1993. He continues to support the field turf project at La Salle.

The Forest Park fire, police and schools receive generous support and sponsorship from Nieman Plumbing. They also support the FreeStore/Foodbank and Habitat for Humanity. Nieman Plumbing provides at-cost services to St. James, La Salle and McAuley.

Drew Nieman served as president of Cincinnati Master Plumbers in 1994 and 2001. Nieman Plumbing was the Forest Park Business of the Month in 1993 and earned the Herbert J. Vonderheide Award for Outstanding and Devoted Services in 1997.

Check out their website at [www.neimanplumbing.com](http://www.neimanplumbing.com).

**In 30 years, the company grew from 10 employees to over 90 employees, with revenue growth going from \$1 million to over \$9 million annually.**

### Nieman Plumbing Employees from La Salle

Jeff Bernhardt  
Chad Beck  
Joe Geisler  
Ben Holthaus  
Mike Mienking  
Matt Sanders  
Mike Schloss  
Mike Smith



Ed Telscher  
Aaron Treinen  
Mario Esposito  
Nicholas Powell  
Bradley Buckmaster  
David Bosse  
Eric Lohbeck  
Frank Trotta