**Accomplished area alumni**

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**Business Bytes**

Award to recognize up-and-coming businesses

MADISON — Wisconsin entrepreneurs accepting nominations for its 2011 Wisconsin Companies to Watch program.

The awards honor second-stage companies for their performance and innovative products, services or processes. Second-stage companies employ at least six people, are privately owned and have between $700,000 and $50 million in annual revenue.

The 2011 list of Companies to Watch will include a mix of manufacturing, information technology, real estate, industrial and governmental.

**New car often advisable**

Used vehicles offer less choice, predictability

Generally offer loans for longer terms and at lower interest rates on new cars than what they provide on used vehicles.

A new car may be be financed at 3 percent interest over as much as 72 months, versus 15 percent over 60 months (at most) for a used vehicle. Under those conditions a car buyer looking to keep payments at $400 per month could get a $23,000 loan for a new car, but only about $18,000 for a used vehicle.

3. More predictable expenses

**The financial payback from paying the higher price (and perhaps higher monthly payments) of a new car is that you are more likely to recover any additional expenses for quite some time.**