



Cocky's Bagels Wins BBB's Spark Award Celebrating Entrepreneurs in Northeast Ohio

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Cocky's Bagels, a food truck turned brick and mortar business in North Olmsted, is the winner of Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Greater Cleveland's Spark Award. Cocky's Bagels, owned by Keene Cockburn and Natalie Bata, is known for their massive bagel sandwiches and their involvement in the community.

The BBB Spark Award is co-sponsored by LaunchHouse and Cleveland Jewish News. The winner was announced on January 25, 2020, at the LaunchHouse Bootstrap Bash held at Red Space.

Cocky's Bagels will also be honored at BBB's Celebration of Integrity in April 2020. Cocky's Bagels received a \$2000 cash prize and a one-year flex membership to LaunchHouse. Two finalists, NoBasis Co. and Milia Marketing, were also recognized and received one-year flex memberships to LaunchHouse.

In regards to making the transition, Cockburn and Bata said, "It has been one of the best learning and growing experiences, as we learned how to not only operate a brick and mortar, but how to implement structure within our work environment and manage employees." Cockburn and Bata were also recognized for their dedication to a positive workplace culture, saying, "Our mission is to create an environment in which we uplift our employees and encourage them to reach their greatest potential."

Cockburn and Bata also mentioned their experience as an entrepreneur in Cleveland, saying, "Cleveland, in our eyes, is The Land of opportunity; if you work hard to achieve your goals, you will persevere, and receiving the BBB Spark Award is a perfect example of that. Being an entrepreneur isn't easy, but it is worth it when you have such strong support from your

community. We have sacrificed quite a bit on this entrepreneurial road, but being recognized for it with the Spark Award makes us feel so good and it makes it all worth it!”

The BBB Spark Award is a unique recognition of young business leaders who demonstrate a high level of character, generate a culture that is authentic about its mission, and embed social impact into their business model to support their community.

Applicants each submitted a written application as well as a short video outlining how their organization demonstrates character, culture, and community.

“BBB is excited to support our local entrepreneurs,” said BBB President and CEO, Sue McConnell. “Greater Cleveland is home to a strong entrepreneurial network replete with young passionate leaders who are building a marketplace focused on trust and a spirit of giving back to the community.”