



Media Advisory

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: April 21, 2008
Release Number: MA08-17

Contacts: Cecelia Taylor (202) 401-3059
Dennis Byrne (202) 205-6567
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

National Small Business Week 2008 Schedule of Events; Business Owners Can Attend Virtually April 21-25th

Newt Gingrich to Deliver Opening Remarks on Tuesday, April 22

WASHINGTON – Small business owners from across the country will be honored for their accomplishments as the nation’s leading small businesses at *National Small Business Week* events April 21-25, 2008, in Washington, D.C., and New York City. A highlight of events will be the announcement of the *National Small Business Person of the Year* April 22.

National Small Business Week will begin with three days of events in Washington, D.C., at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Conference Center, where more than 100 outstanding business owners from across the country will be recognized. In addition to the State Small Business Persons of the Year, men and women involved in disaster recovery, government procurement, small business champions, SBA partners in financial services and SBA resource partners will be honored.

On April 24, Small Business Week moves to New York, where SBA will participate in the closing bell ceremony at NASDAQ to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Women’s Business Center program. An awards event celebrating the top small business lenders and a financial forum on community investment will culminate activities in New York.

The small business public can “attend” *National Small Business Week* events virtually, via the SBA’s live webcasting at <http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/>.

Onsite press registration for *National Small Business Week* will take place beginning April 21.

Media Contacts:	Dennis Byrne dennis.byrne@sba.gov (202) 657-9722 – cell	Cecelia Taylor cecelia.taylor@sba.gov (202) 657-8369 – cell
------------------------	---	---

A full updated schedule of events appears below, and online at <http://www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com/Schedule/>.

The SBA Press Room at the Mandarin Hotel and Conference Center will be open April 21-23. The onsite SBA Press Room telephone number at the Mandarin is (202) 202-787-6908.

To schedule an interview with a U.S. Small Business Administration spokesperson regarding National Small Business Week, or to schedule an interview with an award winner, please contact Christine Mange at Christine.Mangi@sba.gov.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Note to Press: Seating is limited at all events and the events schedule is subject to change Visit www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com for the latest.)

Monday, April 21

- 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Opening Reception and Presentation of the Entrepreneurial Development Awards**
U.S Department of State, Diplomatic Reception Rooms
Sponsored by: Administaff
**Complimentary Bus Transportation from the Mandarin Oriental to the Event will begin at 5:00pm.*
**Invitation Only*

Tuesday, April 22

- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 11:00 am – 5:00 pm **Cyber Café Open**
Mandarin Oriental, Sackler Room
Sponsored by: Salesforce.com
**Internet Café is open to Award Winners, Sponsors and Special Guests only. Not open to Forum Attendees.*
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom Foyer
- 9:30 am – 10:40 am **Healthcare Forum: “Cost and Coverage: Healthcare Chicken and Egg”**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
- 10:45 am – 11:30 am **Keynote Remarks by The Honorable Newt Gingrich, Chairman, American Solutions and Former Speaker of the House**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
- 11:35 am – 12:20 pm **Keynote Remarks by The Honorable Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
- 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **National Awards Luncheon Honoring State Small Business Winners**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom
Sponsored by: Sam’s Club
**Invitation Only*
- 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Trade Forum: "Going Global: Accessing New Markets"**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: IBM & Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Congressional Reception**
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SD-G50
**Complimentary Bus Transportation from the Mandarin Oriental to the Event will begin at 5:00pm.*
**Invitation Only*

Wednesday, April 23

- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 8:00 am – 10:00 am **Phoenix Awards Breakfast**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom
Sponsored by: Lockheed Martin Corporation
**Invitation Only*
- 9:00 am – 7:00 pm **Cyber Café Open**
Mandarin Oriental, Sackler Room
Sponsored by: Salesforce.com
**Internet Café is open to Award Winners, Sponsors and Special Guests only. Not open to Forum Attendees.*
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Energy Forum: "Meeting the Energy Challenge: Impacts & Opportunities for Small Business"**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA)
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm **National Awards Luncheon Honoring Procurement Award Winners**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom
Sponsored by: Raytheon and Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)
**Invitation Only*
- 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Remarks by President George W. Bush and SBA Administrator Steve Preston on National Small Business Week**
The White House, East Room
**Invitation Only*
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm **Procurement Forum: "Secrets of Building Alliance Partnerships with Prime Contractors"**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: FedSources and Washington Technology
- 7:30 pm – 11:00 pm **Champion Award Winners Gala**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom
Sponsored by: Administaff
**Invitation Only*

Thursday, April 24

- 8:30 am – 4:30 pm **OSDBU Procurement Matchmaking Event**
Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
**Not an official National Small Business Week Event. To register or for more information, please visit www.fbcinc.com/osdbu*
- 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm **Reception Celebrating Women Entrepreneurs**
Hosted by the National Women's Business Council
NASDAQ MarketSite, New York City
**Invitation Only*

Friday, April 25

- 11:00 am – 2:00 pm **Financial Forum: "Investing in the Future: Financing Inner City Businesses" and Lender Awards Luncheon**
The Westin New York at Times Square, New York City
Majestic Ballroom, 5th Floor

Forum Sponsored by: Initiative for Competitive Inner City (ICIC)

**Invitation Only*

Forums and Award Events will be Webcast Live across the Nation

Go online to www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com.

Streaming video sponsored by Cisco

Event times and dates subject to change.

Please check the Web site for most current information

(Video on Demand will be available 24 hours after the event.)

For additional information on Small Business Week 2008, including an updated schedule of events and information on all award winners, visit <http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/>. All award winners are listed on the Web at <http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/awards/>.

The U.S. Small Business Administration thanks the following cosponsors of National Small Business Week and related events: Sam's Club, Administaff, Raytheon, IBM, Chevron, The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Cisco, Lockheed Martin, Salesforce, Lowe's, Banco Popular, Minority Business Development Agency, General Service Administration, MyBizHomepage, Dun & Bradstreet, National Association of Development Companies, Direct Selling Education Foundation, Association of Small Business Development Centers, National Small Business Association, Federal Allies Institute, SCORE, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, National Federation of Independent Businesses, Consumer Energy Alliance, and FedSources.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's participation in this cosponsored activity does not constitute an express or implied endorsement of any cosponsor's, donor's, grantee's, contractor's or participant's opinions, products, or services. All SBA programs and cosponsored programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance, by contacting sbw@sba.gov. Cosponsorship Authorization #SBW2008.

###