



# News Release

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## *SBA Honors National Small Business Champions*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** –Ten small business owners and leaders of small business support organizations were recognized today by the U.S. Small Business Administration for their outstanding support of entrepreneurs. SBA Champion Awards were presented today in Washington, D.C., as part of the annual observance of *National Small Business Week*.

The winners include people like Rodney Hudson, a service-disabled veteran who served in Iraq; Keith McLaughlin, who heads SBA lending at The Bank of Missouri; John and Brendan Ready, two remarkable and innovative young lobstermen from Maine; and Robert L. Johnston, a longtime seeds man who knows that big things grow from tiny seeds.

The Champions awards were presented at the Champion Award Winners Gala, sponsored by Administaff.

“The SBA is proud to honor these men and women as true champions of small business, whose tireless efforts have provided tangible and significant support to small businesses and to their communities,” said SBA Administrator Steve Preston. “They provide the counseling, advice and support that small business owners need, and foster an environment in which the spirit of entrepreneurship can flourish.”

The award winners are recognized for their efforts and excellence in various aspects of small business.

This year’s Champion Awards recognize winners from California, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. For more detailed information on all the winners please go to <http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/awards/69/>

The winners are:

**2008 Financial Services Champion**

W. Keith McLaughlin  
Senior Vice President  
SBA Lending Division  
The Bank of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

**2008 SBA Young Entrepreneur**

John and Brendan Ready  
Co-Founders  
Ready Seafood  
Portland, Maine

**2008 Veteran Champion**

Rodney Hudson, President  
Quicksilver Analytics, Inc.  
Abingdon, Maryland

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**2008 Small Business Exporter**

Oscar Neal Asbury  
President  
Greenfield Worldtrade Inc.  
Weston, Florida

**2008 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business**

Robert A. Antignano  
Owner  
Angelo's Civita Farnese  
Providence, Rhode Island

**2008 Small Business Journalist**

Ronald Ameln, President  
St. Louis Small Business, Inc.  
St. Louis, Missouri

**2008 Home-Based Business Champion**

Kimberly Davidson  
Owner  
MBD Marketing Inc.  
Murrieta, California

**2008 Minority Champion**

Johnson W.K. Choi  
President  
Hong Kong-China, Hawaii Chamber of  
Commerce  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**2008 Women in Business Champion**

Julann Jatczak  
Vice President  
Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative  
Corporation  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**2008 Entrepreneurial Success**

Robert L. Johnston  
Chairman & Founder  
Johnny's Selected Seeds  
Winslow, Maine

For additional information on Small Business Week 2008, including a full schedule of events and information on all award winners, go online to [www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com](http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com)

*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.*

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