

NEWS RELEASE

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Gilda Nardone of Women, Work, and Community Wins the Maine SBA and Regional Awards For Women in Business Champion

Augusta, Maine – Gilda Nardone, Executive Director, of Women, Work, and Community has been named the U. S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Women in Business Champion – for Maine and New England.

The Women in Business Champion is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership.

Gilda Nardone, who lives in Brunswick, has been the Executive Director of Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community at the University of Maine at Augusta from the time service delivery began in 1978. Women, Work, and Community (WWC) is a statewide economic development and training organization committed to improving the economic lives of Maine women and families. Individuals are provided with the support, guidance, and tools they need to secure a more promising future and improved quality of life through developing careers, starting businesses, managing money and building assets, and becoming community leaders.

Gilda has shared her leadership and expertise at a state and national level to expand economic options for women. She recently chaired a Leadership Work Group for the Justice Action Group's (JAG) Statewide Panning Initiative and serves on the Board of The Eleanor Humes Haney Fund. Previously, she served as Board President of WomenWork! The National Network for Women's Employment, helped initiate the Maine Women's Economic Security Agenda, and is a graduate of Leadership Maine.

Ms. Nardone will be honored along with the other small business award winners at an awards luncheon in Lewiston on May 16^{th} .