



NEWS RELEASE

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AUDREY ZIMMERMAN NAMED MAINE 2007 WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION BY THE SBA

Augusta, ME -- Audrey Mary Zimmerman, Houlton Center Coordinator and Microenterprise Trainer for Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community (MCWWC), has been named Maine 2007 Women in Business Champion by the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "Audrey's desire to see women in Maine's rural communities achieve their entrepreneurial dream makes her a true champion and deserving of this award," said Charles Summers, New England SBA Regional Administrator.

For eighteen years Zimmerman provided training and individual technical assistance to women in rural Maine. With Zimmerman's guidance, Maine women achieve financial security and become leaders in their community by developing a career or following the path to self-employment.

In addition to individual business planning assistance and tailored training sessions, Zimmerman creates networks for women entrepreneurs and helps them target their market. Her leadership affords women the opportunity to increase their income and achieve business success.

Active in the community, Zimmerman has served on many boards including, the Economic Development District Council of Northern Maine Development Commission, the Aroostook Business Information Group, the Battered Women's Project, Board of Directors, SAD #70 School Board. She is founder and president of the Southern Aroostook Cultural Arts Project (SACAP), and a current committee member at the Maine Arts Commission.

She recently accepted the position of Executive Director of SACAP where she will be putting her own entrepreneurial skills to work on developing a business plan for the organization. She will also be mentoring SACAP artists in development of their businesses and using the SACAP Visions shop as one outlet for their work. "It is an exciting time for the arts and for artists in the greater Aroostook County

area," said Zimmerman, already planning for an expanded role of mentoring in the community.

“Audrey can explain complicated intricacies of business plans in a very factual, straightforward manner. She is an asset to her communities and to the system in general,” said Congressman Michael Michaud, who nominated Zimmerman for this prestigious award.

Zimmerman will be honored at the SBA celebration in May.