



**U.S. Small Business Administration**  
**Montana District Office**  
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September 5, 2008

Dear Friend of Small Business:

The U.S. Small Business Administration is asking for your assistance in finding and nominating candidates for the 2009 Small Business Week Awards. Each year small business owners and advocate champions from every state are recognized for their ingenuity, determination, success and contributions toward building a more prosperous future for our country.

National Small Business Week (SBW) will be celebrated in early May 2009. In recognition of SBW, the Montana SBA office, local Chambers of Commerce and other small business supporters will sponsor special activities honoring small businesses and individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of small businesses in Montana. The presentation of awards will highlight Small Business Week activities.

Your support is needed to make Small Business Week 2009 a success. Help us recognize some of the outstanding leaders and businesses making an impact in your community! Individuals who own and operate a small business are eligible for nomination as Small Business Person of the Year and several other entrepreneurial categories. **Nominees are *not* required to have received SBA assistance.** Individuals who support and champion small business are eligible to be nominated in various categories. A state-specific award will also be given to recognize the Small Business Community of the Year.

Any individual or organization such as professional and trade associations, business organizations, chambers of commerce, banks or a small business' employees, can make nominations. I urge you to identify nominees for these categories to help bring recognition to the outstanding small businesses and champions in your community.

Nomination guidelines are available at SBA's website at <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/mt/news/index.html>, or contact us at 10 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 1100, Helena, MT 59626, (406) 441-1081. ***All nominations must be mailed or delivered to the Montana SBA office by November 28, 2008.***

Sincerely,

Michelle Johnston  
District Director