



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Honors National Small Business Champions

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Championing the success of small businesses in locales across America, nine 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 at an evening reception on April 23, 2007 in Washington, D.C. as part of the annual observance of *National Small Business Week*.

“The SBA is proud to honor people who are among the true champions of small business and whose tireless efforts have provided tangible and significant support to small businesses and their communities,” said SBA Administrator Steven C. 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 Massachusetts, Washington, Missouri, Utah, Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Wyoming and Indiana. For more detailed information on all the winners please go to <http://app1.sba.gov/sbsuccess/2007/>

The winners are:

2007 Financial Services Champion

Anne Marie Cerami
Senior VP and Manager of Agency
Guaranty Programs
TD Banknorth, NA
Burlington, Massachusetts

2007 SBA Young Entrepreneur

Jeremy Ames, President
David Nilssen, CEO
Guidant Financial Group, Inc.
Bellevue, Washington

2007 Veteran Champion

Richard T. Grote, Chairman
American Medical Claims, Inc.
Saint Louis, Missouri

2007 Small Business Exporter

Ross Johnson
President & CEO
Mobi-Light, Inc.
West Jordan, Utah

2007 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business

Nancy D. Marshall, President & CEO
Aluminum Supply Company
Detroit, Michigan

2007 Small Business Journalist

Jody Glynn Patrick
Vice President, Publisher & Radio Journalist
IN BUSINESS Magazine
Madison, Wisconsin

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2007 Minority Champion

Marva Smith Battle-Bey
President & CEO
Vermont Slauson Economic
Development Corporation
Los Angeles, California

2007 Women in Business Champion

Charlotte Zietlow, Economic Development
Coordinator
Middle Way House, Inc.
Bloomington, Indiana

2007 Home-Based Business Champion

Kevin and Julie Gaukel, Owners
Gaukel Grown & Ground
Keeline, Wyoming

Selected from nomination packages submitted to SBA field offices in their communities, the winners are being recognized on the basis of having met one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.
- Showed evidence of success, if a small business, as measured by sales and profits.
- Displayed voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance small business interests within the small business community, state and/or nation.
- Provided support of the small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
- Engaged in other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective support of small business.

For additional information on Small Business Week 2007, including a full schedule of events and information on all award winners, go online to www.sba.gov/sbw.

Small Business Week 2007 is cosponsored by the following organizations: SCORE, Sam's Club, IBM, BAE Systems, MasterCard, Raytheon, Orbitz, National Association for the Self-Employed, National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, Association of Small Business Development Centers, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, National Association of Women Business Owners, Women Impacting Public Policy, Lowes, and National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders.

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*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses,
Visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.*

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