



**U.S. Small Business Administration Names
Bill Carney
*District Director's Award Winner***



Santa Ana, CA – Bill Carney, president & CEO of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, has been named a 2009 *District Director's Award* winner by the Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Every year, District Director J. Adalberto Quijada honors a leader who has influenced the community and contributed toward the success of small businesses. “By promoting the benefits of doing business in the Inland Empire region, Bill has proven to be an important economic development force,” stated District Director Quijada.

Mr. Carney was named President and CEO of the IEEP in 2006. When he was hired to lead the IEEP, Carney already had 17 years of economic development experience in senior executive positions. During his tenure as CEO of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, that region experienced significant growth. Carney's goal is to duplicate that type of performance in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. One way to achieve this is to attract high-tech firms and corporate headquarter companies to the Inland Empire region – a task he has fulfilled remarkably well.

A coalition of 180 public and private sector members partner with IEEP to support the organization and its services. The IEEP's mission is to attract, create, expand and retain business in order to increase the region's growth and economic output. This is achieved by providing superior service to members, clients and the communities in the Inland Empire. IEEP works directly with individual companies, their brokers and

consultants to provide hands on customized client services that will assist them with their relocation, expansion and retention projects.

The IEEP is made up of three divisions. The first two are the IE Film Commission and the IE Tourism Council. The third is a key SBA Resource Partner- the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center. As host of the IESBDC, U.S. Small Business Administration and IEEP are partners in providing entrepreneurs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties access to the critical resources and management & technical assistance needed to establish or expand their businesses. The IESBDC is also the largest SBDC in the state.

Many companies have relocated to the Inland Empire in the past several years due to the availability of affordable land and the lower costs of doing business. The testimonies of some of these companies speak well of the IEEP. For instance Carlos Lacambra, Vice President of A-Check America stated, "IEEP worked hard to help us find a home; they were genuinely interested in helping us. They took the time to learn what we needed and immediately started to help."

Bill Carney and other small business owners and champions will be honored at the 46th Annual Small Business Week Awards event on June 4th hosted by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in the Yuhaviatam Room at 777 San Manuel Blvd., Highland, CA.

For more information about the Small Business Week Awards luncheon and networking expo, contact Jennifer Hoff at 951-781-2345, ext. 246 or jhoff@iesmallbusiness.com