

Recognize outstanding businesses and business advocates in your community!

The U. S. Small Business Administration is accepting Nominations for 2010 Small Business Awards

The SBA's Philadelphia District Office is seeking nominations for its annual Eastern Pennsylvania Small Business Awards, honoring both small business owners and the individuals who support and champion the cause of small businesses. This year, the Philadelphia District Office will present several categories of awards at the Eastern Pennsylvania Small Business Awards Ceremony in June 2010. **Nominations for those awards must be submitted to the SBA Philadelphia District Office no later than November 13, 2009.**

This year's Small Business Award categories are:

- **Small Business Person of the Year**
- **Small Business Exporter of the Year**
- **SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year**
- **Family-Owned Business of the Year**
- **Entrepreneurial Success Award**
- **Small Business Champions (individuals or organizations dedicated to supporting small businesses)**
 - **Financial Services Champion of the Year**
 - **Home-based Business Champion of the Year**
 - **Minority Small Business Champion of the Year**
 - **Small Business Journalist of the Year**
 - **Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**
 - **Women in Business Champion of the Year**
- **Community/Rural Lender of the Year**

As in years past, **the Eastern Pennsylvania Small Business Person of the Year will be recognized nationally at a May 2010 Small Business Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.** That celebration will also honor the estimated 25 million small businesses in America that employ more than half the country's private work force, create two of every three new jobs, and generate a majority of American innovations.

"Every year, the public response to this awards Program is overwhelming, and we have had fantastic candidates and winners," said David Dickson, SBA District Director. "The Small Business Awards Program really is a win-win proposition. Both the award winners and their nominators benefit from the public recognition that they both receive at the award ceremony and through the attendant publicity. Of course, the community, as a whole, benefits the most from the Program; winners are a living example to their friends and neighbors that success really does come to those who work hard to achieve their dreams."

To obtain a ***2010 SBA Awards nomination package*** detailing selection criteria and containing step-by-step nomination instructions, contact the SBA Philadelphia District Office, c/o Jennifer Pilcher, Small Business Awards Coordinator, 1150 First Avenue, Suite 1001, King of Prussia, PA 19406, call 610-382-3084, e-mail jennifer.pilcher@sba.gov.

The 2009 Small Business Award Winners were:

2009 Small Business Person of the Year: Jiri Stejskal, Ph.D., President & CEO, CETRA Language Solutions, Elkins Park, PA

2009 Young Entrepreneur of the Year: Stephen C. Voudouris, Christopher R. Francy, Andrew S. Voudouris, Xoxide, Inc., Malvern, PA

****(Winner of Philadelphia District and Region 3 Award)****

****(Winner of National Young Entrepreneur Award)****

2009 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year: Michael A. Strange, President, Bassetts Ice Cream Company, Philadelphia, PA

2009 Entrepreneurial Success: Mark Stevens, President Bearings and Drives Unlimited, Inc., Souderton, PA

****(Winner of Philadelphia District and Region 3 Award)****

2009 Financial Services Champion of the Year: David Starfield, Esquire, Managing Partner, Starfield & Smith, P.C., Fort Washington, PA

2009 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year: Miriam Soto, Director of Training, The Women's Business Center at Community First Fund, Business Lender and Counselor, Lancaster, PA 17608-0524

2009 Small Business Journalist of the Year: Marynell Strunk, President/Publisher, Twin Willow Publishing Company, d/b/a Pocono Business Journal, East Stroudsburg, PA

2009 Women in Business Champion of the Year: Sonia Smith, Economic & Business Development Program Administrator, County of Bucks Community & Business Development Dept., Doylestown, PA 18901

2009 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year: David Kern, Contract Specialist Intern/Small Business Specialist VISN 4, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA