



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Selects Wisconsin 2008 Small Business Person of the Year Additional State Winners Also Announced

Oshkosh: John Petek, President; Robert Beach, Vice President and James Jourdan, Operations Manager/Executive Vice President of Marvel Manufacturing Company, Inc. in Oshkosh have been named Wisconsin's Small Business Person's of the Year for 2008 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Marvel Manufacturing, Inc. (formerly Armstrong-Blum Mfg. Co.) has been designing and manufacturing the highest quality metal cutting saws available for the past 100 years. Marvel's products include Marvel vertical tilt frame bandsaws, horizontal bandsaws (under both the Marvel and Spartan names), Spartan ironworkers, plate saws, carbide tip circular saws and a full line of material handling equipment, including conveyors, loaders, ejectors and length gauges.

The three managers of Marvel purchased the assets of Armstrong-Blum Mfg., Co. in 2004 and renamed the company Marvel Manufacturing, Inc. Due to this new management structure and expertise, the company rebounded extremely well from prior losses incurred before they purchased the company. Their purchase of the company also allowed Marvel to remain in Oshkosh while retaining 70 jobs. Marvel provides its products to thousands of customers throughout North America and exports five percent of its equipment to Europe and Asia. They have a leading twenty percent market share in the US and their largest volume machine has a market share of over seventy percent in its category. Marvel estimates that it has more than 30,000 machines in the market today.

John, Robert and James also spend time serving and improving the Oshkosh community. Organizations enhanced by the leadership of the Marvel owners include the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, the Christing Ann Center, Fox Valley Technical College and the Oshkosh Area Humane Society. They also sponsor youth baseball and volleyball teams.

John, Robert and James are among 53 top small business persons—one from each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, and Guam—who will be honored at SBA's National Small Business Week events April 21 – 25, 2008 in Washington, D.C. As the winner of the Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year Award, they could be named National Small Business Person of the Year during the national event.

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As Wisconsin's Small Business Persons of the Year, John, Robert and James were judged on their staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service offered, response to adversity and contributions to aid community-oriented projects.

The Wisconsin SBA celebration of our Small Business winners will be held June 6, 2008 at SBA and SCORE's Awards Presentation Breakfast at Country Springs Inn and Resort in Waukesha. For more information, please contact Mary Trimmier at (414) 297-1093 or email her at mary.trimmier@sba.gov.

Wisconsin's SBA District Office also named the state's Small Business Advocates of the Year and special category winners. The following categories and winners are:

Women in Business Champion – NATIONAL WINNER - Julann Jatzak, Vice President, WI Women's Business Initiative Corp., Milwaukee

Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Small Business – REGIONAL WINNER

Ronald Buholzer, President; Steve Buholzer, Vice President and David Buholzer, Treasurer, Klondike Cheese Co., Monroe

Honorable Mention Small Business Persons – Neil Peters-Michaud, CEO and Jessica Peters-Michaud, President, Cascade Asset Management, LLC in Middleton.

Small Business Exporter – Bruce Swing, President, Wisconsin Knife Works, Beloit

Young Entrepreneur – Casey Frisch, Advanced Exteriors, Inc., Middleton

Minority Small Business Person of the Year – Baly Ambegaoker, President, IDL Solutions, Inc. in Germantown

Veteran Small Business Person – Stanley Kogutkiewicz, Veterans Employment Representative-Milwaukee Job Center, Milwaukee

Emerging Small Business Person – Jill Kenehan-Krey, President, Interpreting Solutions, Inc., in Milwaukee

Minority Small Business Champion – Ylonda Glover, President, Tri-Success Management Institute, Inc., Milwaukee

Financial Services Champion – Joseph Wolfe, President & CEO, WI Business Development Finance Corporation, Madison

Small Business Journalist – Diane Chamness, President, Chamness Group, Milwaukee

Small Business Development Center Service Excellence Award

WI Business Answer Line, SBDC-University of WI, Madison

SBA District Director Award – Jules Matsoff, SCORE and Rubin Sharpe, SCORE

The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contributions to Wisconsin's small business communities.

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