



News

U.S. Small Business Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WELLS FARGO REGIONAL PRESIDENT/CEO NAMED SBA'S WOMEN IN BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HELENA, MT – Joy Ott, Regional President and CEO of Wells Fargo Bank Montana, N.A., has been named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2004 Women in Business Advocate of the Year for Montana. Ott will be recognized at SBA's annual Small Business Week awards ceremony May 7, 2004, at Missoula's Doubletree Inn, along with a cast of outstanding business owners and advocates from across the state.

Since May 2000, Joy Ott has served as regional president and CEO of Wells Fargo Bank Montana, N.A. In 2003, Ott was named the company's new national spokesperson for Wells Fargo's Women's Business Services program. As the national spokesperson for this program, she helps grow women owned businesses across the country by helping inform and connect them with the financial resources they need to succeed, and sponsoring community organizations and events that promote the interest of women business owners nationwide. Since the program's inception in 1995, Wells Fargo Women's Business Services program has successfully lent more than \$15.7 billion to women business owners nationwide. Having exceeded its prior lending goals three times, Wells Fargo has re-stated its goal to lend \$20 billion over the next 10 years to qualified women business owners.

Beyond Ott's personal accomplishments in the business world, she actively mentors many women across the corporation to impact their professional and personal success. Through these mentoring relationships, other women have succeeded in breaking through the glass ceiling in positions such as district manager and community banking president. Ott also continually challenges other top management to seek and provide developmental opportunities for women.

Ott is a CPA with a degree in Business and an MBA in Management from the University of Montana. She is presently a director on the Federal Reserve Bank Board of Directors – Helena Branch. She is also active in the Billings community, serving on the Board for United Way of Yellowstone County and is a member of the Finance committee of the Yellowstone Arts Center.

Ott was nominated by the Billings Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Other award winners being honored include: William Woody of Nightingale Nursing Services, Inc. of Missoula – Montana Small Business Person of the Year; Jack Morgenstern of Century Companies, Inc. of Lewistown – First Runner-up Small Business Person of the Year; Jennifer Keck of Big Sky Travel Nurses, Inc. in Conrad – Woman owned Business of the Year; Frederick “Rick” Larson of Employee Benefit management Services, Inc. – Entrepreneurial Success Award; Ryan Deskins of R&R Pressure Washing of East Helena – SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year; Kim Wild of TowHaul Corporation, dba Smith Equipment USA of Belgrade – National Small Business Exporter of the Year; Mandi Luce-Heinle and Sarah Ann Hamlen of Innovative Marketing Solutions, LLC of Hathaway – Main Street Business of the Year; Jerry Sullivan of Flint Creek Valley Bank in Philipsburg – Financial Services Advocate of the Year; Sheryle Shandy of Billings Food Bank & Montana Harvest Kitchens/Montana Harvest Gift Boutique in Billings – Home-Based Business Advocate of the Year; Flathead Business Journal of Kalispell – Small Business Journalist of the Year; Craig Smith of the Fort Peck Community College in Poplar – Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year; and Joe Fletcher of the Great Falls Job Service Workforce Center – Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year.

For more information on SBA programs and services, contact the Montana SBA District office at (406) 441-1081 or log onto www.sba.gov/mt.

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