



NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Firm Named National Minority Small Business of the Year

Virginia Firm Receives 8(a) Graduate of the Year Award

Administrator Barreto Names Former White House Official as Recipient of Special Leadership Award

WASHINGTON – Two exceptional minority-owned businesses and a former White House official were named recipients of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s most celebrated awards for their superior business achievements and outstanding commitment to federal procurement during the 21st National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week celebration in Washington, D.C., today.

The winner of the *National 8(a) Minority Small Business of the Year Award* is **Ms. Rhonda Herschell, President of Cherokee General Corporation of Fairview, OR.** **Mr. Tony Reid, President of Automated Precision Technology, LLC of Norfolk, VA** is the recipient of the *8(a) Graduate of the Year Award*. The **Honorable Angela Styles, former administrator for Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget** is the winner of the *Administrator’s Leadership Award*. The *Administrator’s Leadership Award* recognizes the recipient for her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment on behalf of the nation’s minority small business community.

“I am honored to recognize Rhonda Herschell of Cherokee General Corporation, Tony Reid of Automated Precision Technology, LLC and Angela Styles, the former administrator for Federal Procurement Policy for their outstanding achievements and tremendous contributions to the growth of minority businesses,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto.

Two of the three top award recipients were participants in the SBA’s 8(a) Business Development Program – a program that provides management and technical assistance, networking and federal contracting opportunities to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.

National Minority Small Business Firm of the Year

Ms. Rhonda Herschell, President
Cherokee General Corporation

Cherokee General Corporation isn’t a traditional construction company. It explores opportunities to combine engineering and design with construction to streamline projects and ensure project continuity. Cherokee General is a participant in the SBA’s 8(a) Business Development Program

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and has obtained more than eight federal contracts since 1996 through the program. Cherokee General is scheduled to graduate from the program in 2005, but has reported more than \$22 million in total revenues and \$9.4 million in 8(a) revenues during its participation in the program.

National 8(a) Graduate of the Year

Mr. Tony Reid, President

Automated Precision Technology, LLC

Although no longer in the program, Automated Precision Technology appreciates the significant foundation the 8(a) Program provided and the mentoring received from the program's management team. To support its vision of continued growth, APT has implemented a five-year plan to achieve revenue growth exceeding \$50 million by focusing on long term contracts in the fields of law enforcement, personnel resourcing, vessel maintenance and IT infrastructure. APT's five-year plan also calls for diversification while remaining focused on its core businesses, its customers and employee development. APT has recently been accepted into the Department of Defense's Mentor-Protégé program with Electronic Data Systems as its mentor.

Administrator's Leadership Award Recipient

The Honorable Angela B. Styles, Former Administrator

for Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget

On April 23, 2001, President Bush nominated Angela Styles to be the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget. As part of the President's Small Business Agenda, Ms. Styles submitted a report to the President on contract bundling and an aggressive plan to hold government agencies accountable for eliminating contract bundling in October 2002. In her report to the President, Ms. Styles stated her case for small businesses. She said, "Not only are substantially fewer small businesses receiving federal contracts, but the federal government is suffering from a reduced supplier base. American small businesses bring innovation, creativity, competition and lower costs to the federal table. When these businesses are excluded from federal opportunities through contract bundling, our agencies, small businesses and the taxpayers lose." Through her continuous efforts, Ms. Styles has demonstrated her unwavering commitment to the minority small business community, but more importantly to small business.

The awards were part of the MED Week Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., which began Sept. 28 and will end on Oct 1. The SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development is cosponsoring the event with the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency. The conference features workshops, seminars, award ceremonies, a business expo and a *Meet Your White House* breakfast session with senior staff from the Bush Administration including Jendayi Frazer, Senior Director for African Affairs for the President.

For more information, contact the MED Week 2003 office at 1-877-MEDWEEK or visit the Web site at www.medweek.gov. Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: <http://www.sba.gov> or by calling the **SBA's Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA**.