



NEWS RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESS AWARD LUNCHEON TO HONOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND ADVOCATES

SANTA ANA, CALIF – The Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will honor small businesses at the annual Small Business Award Luncheon on May 26, 2004. This year's theme "Small Business...Catch the Wave," celebrates SBA's 41st Annual SBA Awards. The award program pays tribute to the men and women who represent the best of America's entrepreneurial spirit. The luncheon is hosted by the Orange County Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Rancho Santiago Community College District, the Inland Empire SBDC, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, TriTech SBDC and California State University at Fullerton.

SBA District Director Sandy Sutton said, "We are proud to announce our 2004 winners. Their entrepreneurial spirit exemplifies the best in our small business community." Over 500 people are expected to attend this year's event at The Grove of Anaheim, CA.

Wolfgang Wirthgen and Gary Templin, co-owners of WinDor Inc. in Anaheim, CA have been named the 2004 Small Business Persons of the Year by the Santa Ana District Office SBA. WinDor is the largest manufacturer and retailer of replacement vinyl windows and doors in Southern California.

Sergio Velazquez, President of Velazquez Publishing, Inc. of Santa Ana, CA was selected as one of 10 National Champions of the Year 2004 by SBA. Velazquez was also named the District Small Business Journalist Advocate of the Year 2004. Velazquez will be honored at the SBA's National Small Business Week commemorations, SBA Expo '04, held in Orlando, Florida, May 19-21.

Rose Ramirez Girard, President and CEO of Phoenix Construction Services of Riverside, CA, Eugene Farnsworth, President and CEO of Allwest Geoscience, Inc. of Anaheim and Ronald Stumpf, a partner at Elliott, Lewis, Lieber & Stumpf, Inc. (ELLS), Certified Public Accountants in Santa Ana

were named Region IX Champions of the Year 2004 by the SBA. Region IX includes Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

The Santa Ana District Office winners are: Dr. Klaus Brasch, Executive Director of the Office of Research Development and Technology Transfer at Cal State University San Bernardino, Research Advocate of the Year; Barbara King, founder and President of Armandio Classico Custom Clothing Line and Wardrobe of Costa Mesa, Home-Based Business Advocate of the Year; Rueben Martinez, owner of Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery of Santa Ana, Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year; and Kristopher Plourde, President of N>Effect Productions, Inc. of Irvine, Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

The finalists for Small Business Person of the Year are June and Ronald Stein, President and Vice President of Principal Technical Services, Inc. (PTS) of Lake Forest.

The Small Business Award Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$50. For more information or to make reservations contact the Orange County Small Business Development Center at (714) 564-5200.

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