



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SBA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS**

**BOSTON** -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is accepting nominations for the Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year as well as for other small business owner and special small business advocacy awards for 2004. All winners will be recognized at functions in Massachusetts while the Small Business Person of the Year will also be honored in Washington, D.C. during National Small Business Week next May.

“The Small Business Person of the Year” award gives us a chance to recognize excellence and achievement in business and to honor not only the winner, but all the nominees as well, for their contributions to our economy and our society,” said Jeffrey Butland, the SBA’s New England Regional Administrator.

The SBA is accepting nominations on behalf of business owners in the following four categories: Small Business Person of the Year, Small Business Exporter of the Year, Young Entrepreneur (under age 30 as of June 1, 2004), and Entrepreneurial Success (a large business that received SBA assistance when they were a small firm according to SBA size standards).

Nominations on behalf of persons who use their professional skills or personal talents to promote public awareness of small business are also being accepted. The advocate categories are: minority, women, veteran, research, home-based business, financial services and small business journalist.

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“Small Business Week is when the vital role that the small business community plays in the economy is formally recognized,” said SBA Massachusetts Director Guiney. “According to a recent study by SBA’s Office of Advocacy, small businesses represent more than 99.7 percent of all employers, employ 51 percent of private-sector workers, provide 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs, and produce 51 percent of private-sector output. This is a group that deserves recognition.”

Nominations must be submitted to Joan M. Trudell, SBA, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222, by November 14, 2003. Any person or organization can nominate a deserving small business firm by following the guidelines established by SBA. For more information, contact Joan Trudell at 617-565-5572 or [joan.trudell@sba.gov](mailto:joan.trudell@sba.gov).

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