



# NEWS RELEASE

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### ***SBA Prepares to Celebrate Small Business Week 2004***

**El Paso District Office** – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s annual National Small Business Week commemoration, SBA Expo '04, will be held in Orlando, FL., May 19-21 at the Orange County Convention Center. The celebration honors America’s leading entrepreneurs, and includes the announcement of the *National Small Business Person of the Year*. Special events this year will include a small business expo, a business matchmaking event, business seminars, a town hall meeting, and award ceremonies honoring women entrepreneurs and state and national small business winners. Other highlights will include business industry leaders and speakers from trade associations, and state level and federal government.

“SBA Expo '04 will celebrate the many contributions of the small business men and women whose hard work and perseverance have created opportunities for millions of Americans,” said Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “The SBA is proud to honor the entrepreneurial spirit that has helped strengthen the nation’s economy.”

SBA Expo '04 is the culmination of national and regional events held to commemorate the SBA’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was launched in September 2003, at the SBA’s National Entrepreneurial Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C. More than 3,000 participants from across the nation marked the agency’s 50th anniversary. A highlight of NECE was the inauguration of the SBA’s “Hall of Fame,” which honored nationally known companies that started with SBA assistance.

Regional events to note the agency’s 50th anniversary, *SBA’s Economic Growth Tour: Listening to America’s Job Creators* will continue from January to April in locations throughout the country. The tour enables local entrepreneurs to discuss small business issues with Administrator Barreto, as well as their local bankers, venture capitalists, resource and trade partners, and local SBA office.

Phillip Silva, SBA El Paso Acting District Director announced that in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a Small Business Conference will be held in conjunction with SBA business partners including the Business Information Center of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, the Small Business Development Center of the El Paso Community College and the Women’s Business Border Center of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The small business conference will be held in the morning from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on May 6<sup>th</sup> and following the conference will be the Small Business Week Celebration Luncheon at the Airport Hilton.

For more information and to register for SBA Expo '04, visit the SBA Web site at [www.sba.gov/50](http://www.sba.gov/50)

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