



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE ---WISCONSIN

Release Date: **March 23, 2011**

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Release Number: **11-07**

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SBA's 2011 Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year and Honorable Mention Winners Announced!

Milwaukee: Deborah Carey, President of **New Glarus Brewing Company** has been named the 2011 Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. This year's Small Business Week theme is "Empowering Entrepreneurs".

Deb is among 53 top small businesspersons—one from each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, and Guam—who will be honored at SBA's National Small Business Week events May 18 – 20, 2011 in Washington, D.C. As the winner of the Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year Award, Deborah could be named National Small Business Person of the Year during the national event.

The 2011 Wisconsin Small Business Person of the-Year Honorable Mention award winner is **Raymond J. Mandli**, President of **Mandli Communications, Inc.** in Madison, Wisconsin. Mandli Communications designs and develops highly specialized digital imaging, data collection equipment, and operational methodologies for various departments of transportation throughout the world. Since 1983, Mandli has made available to the transportation industry a complete range of imaging, pavement, and positioning equipment. Along with a suite of supporting GIS software and services, Mandli has enabled their clients to design, manage, and maintain safe and efficient road and rail networks. Mandli has worked with over thirty states across the country and has brought technology solutions to several nations outside of the United States. The corporation employs people with various skill levels in engineering, business, sales, production, programming, human resources, data collection, data processing, and management.

The Wisconsin SBA celebration of our Small Business winners will be June 3, 2011 at SBA and SCORE's Awards Presentation Breakfast at the Italian Conference Center in Milwaukee. For more information, please contact Mary Trimmier at (414) 297-1093 or email her at mary.trimmier@sba.gov.

The Small Business Administration congratulates and thanks Deborah Carey of New Glarus Brewery and Raymond Mandli of Mandli Communications, Inc. for their continued commitment and contributions to Wisconsin's small business communities.

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SBA Wisconsin's 2011 small business champions and special category winners make up a variety of businesses throughout the state.

The winners are:

Financial Services Champion – REGIONAL WINNER – Steve Burgess, President and CEO of State Bank Financial, La Crosse—Steve actively engages in legislative activity in support of small business, advocates for small business initiatives with elected officials and encourages the flow of investment capital to small ventures.

Small Business Exporter—Bill MacFarlane, MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc., Janesville
Produces and raises game birds.

Emerging Small Business—Keith Morgan, CEO of Neurotech, LLC, Elm Grove,
Healthcare company specializing in electroencephalogram (EEG) diagnostic testing.

Family Owned Small Business—Greg Huffman, L H Holdings, Inc. dba Legendary Whitetails,
Slinger—Direct to consumer multi-channel marketer of apparel and gifts for hunters and their families.

Minority Small Business Person of the Year—Manisha Dotson, President of The Nisha Group,
Milwaukee—Janitorial services, building cleaning and maintenance, carpet and floor care, and armed and unarmed security guard services.

Women in Business Champion—Carol Dunn, State of Wisconsin, Women's Certification
Program—Supports and performs activities designed to promote the economic growth of women-owned firms in Wisconsin.

Minority Small Business Champion—Aggo Akyea, Director, Bureau of Minority Business
Development—Plans, develops and directs the goals and objectives of the bureau and daily management of the bureau and its personnel.

Veteran Small Business Champion—Connie Clayton, Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist,
Department of Work Force Development—Provides a full range of placement and related services to all veterans with priority of service to disabled, Vietnam, newly separated, campaign veterans and other eligible applicants. Conducts outreach and out station activities at a location with concentrated veterans population.

Small Business Development Center Service Excellence Award—Small Business Development Center, UW-Whitewater, Bud Gayhart—Business counseling and ongoing management education.

Women's Business Center of Excellence Award -- Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC), Milwaukee, Wendy K. Baumann--Promotes economic development and personal self-sufficiency and provides business education, one-on-one business assistance, and access to capital.

District Director's Award – Steve Cahalan, Small Business Journalist, La Crosse Tribune, La Crosse—Reports on a wide range of topics from business networking and financial/economic development initiatives to local, state, national and international initiatives that are of interest to the small business community. Writes a twice-weekly business column featuring regional small businesses, information on new businesses, business expansions/relocations and other significant events.

District Director's Award—Jan Gallagher, Small Business Champion, La Crosse—Served seventeen years as director of UW-La Crosse Small Business Development Center assisting small businesses through counseling, education, and providing research and resources.

The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contributions to Wisconsin's small business communities.