

# 2018 Rhode Island Small Business Awards



**Small Business  
Awards  
Class of 2018**

## **Small Business Person of the Year**

Kelly Mendell  
President  
MIKEL  
(Middletown)



**National Subcontractor**  
Charles Dewey, CEO  
David Evans, President  
Evans Capacitor Company  
(East Providence)



**New England  
Woman-Owned  
Small Business**

Carol Dancer  
President  
Absorbent Specialty  
Products  
(Cumberland)



**New England  
Veteran-Owned  
Small Business**

John Shepard  
CEO  
Veterans Assembled  
electronics (VAe)  
(Providence)



**New England  
Financial Services  
Champion**

Buck Harris  
Vice President,  
Community Lending  
Community Investment  
Corporation  
(Providence)







### **Small Business Exporter**

Michael Sigourney, CEO

Anne Sigourney, CFO

Richard Grundy, President

AVTECH Software

(Warren)

### **Jeffrey Butland** **Family-Owned** **Small Business**

Lisa M. Sienkiewicz

Gail Parella

Co-Owners

Gil's Appliances

(Bristol)



### **Joseph G. E. Knight** **Award for** **Entrepreneurial** **Excellence**

Christine Francis  
Owner

Carmen & Ginger

(Providence)





**Minority-Owned  
Small Business**

Alba Rios  
Owner  
Spanish Wholesale Center  
(Central Falls)



**Microenterprise**

Nancy Warner  
Owner  
The Worm Ladies  
of Charlestown  
(Charlestown)



**Small Business  
Manufacturer**

Donald J. Boyle  
President  
Jade Manufacturing  
Company  
(Warwick)







## **Young Entrepreneur**

Johnny Luo, M.D.

President

Doctor's Choice

(Warwick)

Accepting on behalf of Johnny  
is Leah Luo.

## **District Director Award**

Posthumously

Cheryl Watkins Snead

President & CEO

Banneker Industries

(North Smithfield)

Accepting on behalf of Cheryl is  
Junior Jabbie, Rene Payne, and  
Linda Watkins.



## **Home-Based Small Business**

Kim M. Coulter

William A. Coulter

Nina A. Luchka

Joshua A. Coulter

Partners

Stony Hill

Cattle Company

(Charlestown)



Photographed with Small Business Award  
winners are the Chairman of Rhode Island

SCORE, Ed Gromada; Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Daniel J. McKee; General Treasurer, the Honorable Seth Magaziner;  
Secretary of State, the Honorable Nellie Gorbea; SBA Regional Administrator, Wendell G. Davis; and Rhode Island District Direc-