



# News Release

477 Michigan Avenue, Room 515, Detroit, Michigan 48226; P (313) 226-6075

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Media Contact: Annette Hall, (313) 226-6075 x225  
email, [Annette.hall@sba.gov](mailto:Annette.hall@sba.gov)

## ***SBA's 2011 Michigan Small Business Award Winners Are Announced!***

**DETROIT** – The **U.S. Small Business Administration** has announced the winner of its **2011 Michigan Small Business Person of the Year** and its other **Small Business** awards. They will be presented on **April 28, 2011** during the seventh annual **Michigan Celebrates Small Business** awards event at The Lansing Center in Lansing. **Richard Sheridan**, CEO and founder of Menlo Innovations, will be the special keynote speaker. For more information and to register to attend this premier event, which drew 800 people last year, go to [www.michigancelebrates.biz](http://www.michigancelebrates.biz).

“Michigan’s entrepreneurs and small businesses are becoming increasingly important contributors to our economy,” said Allen Cook, SBA Michigan Acting District Director. **“This is the seventh year in a row that we have had Michigan winners that have won SBA’s Midwest regional awards. I am very proud of our 2011 Michigan and Midwest Region award winners.”**

Michael J. Uckele, Michigan’s Small Business Person of the Year, is in contention for the national award, which will be announced during SBA’s National Small Business Week events May 18-20 in Washington, D.C. Under the theme, “Empowering Entrepreneurs,” a series of events and educational forums will mark the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agency and the 48<sup>th</sup> annual proclamation of National Small Business Week. The award winners for Michigan are:

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

Michael J. Uckele, CEO and President  
Uckele Health & Nutrition, Blissfield

### **Michigan and *Midwest Region* Small Business Exporter of the Year**

Darryl J. Barlett, Vice President & General Manager  
k-Space Associates, Inc., Dexter

### **Michigan and *Midwest Region* Minority Small Business Champion**

Cynthia A. Grubbs, Small Business Liaison  
Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Novi

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**Michigan Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year**

Amy Engelsman, CEO  
Proos Manufacturing, Inc., Grand Rapids

**Michigan Financial Services Champion**

Jane Sherzer, President  
Michigan Certified Development Corporation, East Lansing

**Women in Business Champion**

Michelle A. Richards, Executive Director  
Center for Empowerment & Economic Development, Ann Arbor

**Michigan Veteran Small Business Champion**

David M. Sherwood, Assistant Director  
VetBizCentral Inc., Flint

**Small Business Journalist of the Year**

Michael F. Carmichael, Online Editor & Contributing Writer  
Corp! Magazine, Warren

**Michigan Small Business Counselors**

Lorne Greenwood, SCORE Counselor  
SCORE Chapter 18, Detroit

*and*

Lola Are', Center Director  
Oakland County Business Center Michigan SBTDC, Waterford

*For more information on the award winners, please contact Annette Hall at the SBA Michigan District Office at (313) 226-6075, x225 or email [annette.hall@sba.gov](mailto:annette.hall@sba.gov). For more information on this event, please go to [www.michigancelebrates.biz](http://www.michigancelebrates.biz). Media note: Most photos of winners are available from SBA upon request.*

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