



Media Advisory

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Honors Small Business Contributions of Midwest Champion Award Winners

Illinois retailer, Michigan small business exporter and Columbus small business lender head to Washington, D.C. for national recognition this month

CHICAGO, IL – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Midwest Office has awarded Champion and Special Awards to ten small business owners and small business advocates from across the region which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The award recognizes their outstanding achievements on behalf of small businesses.

“These entrepreneurs and small business advocates set an excellent example of hard work and dedication. They are creating jobs and making an incredible difference in their communities,” said SBA Regional Administrator Marianne Markowitz. “The Obama Administration continues to support small businesses with legislation like the [Small Business Jobs Act](#) which is giving small businesses the tools they need to be successful, create jobs, and drive our economy forward.”

Several of the Midwest regional winners will also receive national recognition at this year’s *National Small Business Week* in Washington, D.C. May 16-20, 2011. These winners include **Entrepreneurial Success Award Winner** Elaine Krieger, Krieger Kiddie Corporation (Illinois)—a local retail chain of apparel resale stores that currently operates from 12 Chicagoland locations; **Small Business Exporter Award Winner** Darryl J. Barlett, VP & General Manager k-Space Associates, Inc. (MICHIGAN)—a leading supplier of online monitoring equipment for the opto-electronics semiconductor industry; and the **CDC (Certified Development Company) of the Year**—Ohio Statewide. This lender is being honored for their top performance and a portfolio exceeding \$50 million.

The Midwest Champion and Special Award winners will also be recognized at local ceremonies in their respective districts. This year’s winners include the following:

Financial Services Champion	Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business of the Year
Steve Burgess, State Bank Financial (WISCONSIN)	Chad M. Murphy, Daniel D. Murphy, Mary E. Murphy, and Monte M. Murphy; Chevrolet (MINNESOTA)
Entrepreneurial Success Award	Minority Small Business Champion
Elaine Krieger, Krieger Kiddie Corporation (ILLINOIS) NATIONAL WINNER	Cynthia A. Grubbs, Small Business Liaison, Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MICHIGAN)
Small Business Exporter of the Year	Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Darryl J. Barlett, VP & General Manager k-Space Associates, Inc. (MICHIGAN)— NATIONAL WINNER	Jacob Elster and Taylor Monk, Crop to Cup (ILLINOIS)

Veteran Small Business Champion	Women in Business Champion
Linc Hudson, SCORE Counselor (MINNESOTA)	Doris Symonds, T.A.L.K—Teaching and Learning for Knowledge (ILLINOIS)
SBDC Service Excellence and Innovation Award	Women’s Business Center Excellence
William M. Wersell, Director, The Ohio SBDC at Toledo Regional Chamber (CLEVELAND)	S. Carol Dougal, Co-President and Hedy Ratner Co President, Women’s Business Development Center (ILLINOIS)

Selected from nomination packages submitted by SBA district offices in their communities, the awardees are being recognized on the basis of having met one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.
- A small business must show evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.
- Voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance small business interests within the small business community, state and/or nation.
- Support of the small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
- Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee’s effective support of small business.

For more information about SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

To request additional information on the winners or to schedule an interview, please contact Carol Wilkerson at (312) 353-7327 or carol.wilkerson@sba.gov .

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