



St. Louis District Office

2012 Small Business Week Award Winners

Small Business Person of the Year

Vicki LaRose

President

Civil Design, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri

1552 South 7th Street

St. Louis, MO 63104

<http://civildesigninc.com/>

Vicki LaRose founded Civil Design, Inc., (CDI) in 1996 to provide responsive, quality-driven civil engineering services. She has grown CDI into a well-respected firm with offices in Missouri and Illinois. CDI has a reputation for delivering on-time, in-budget designs for construction management, environmental, transportation and site development projects. Her clients include Metropolitan Sewer District, Missouri Department of Transportation, and Illinois Department of Transportation.

SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Jeff Minnis, President

Jeff Computers and Study X Software, Manchester, Missouri

14366 Manchester Road

Manchester, MO 63011

<http://www.jeffcomputers.com/index.html>

Jeff Minnis, 28, President and owner of Jeff Computers and StudyX Software began repairing computers in middle school. He continued working on computers in high school and college, earning spending money and learning. During high school, Minnis developed a learning software program to help him study which he named "StudyX." He began selling StudyX online in 2005. Minnis opened his first computer repair shop in Manchester in 2006. His first retail location opened in 2008, allowing him to sell new and reconditioned computers and provide a larger range of repair services.

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year

Christy Ford Schlafly

C.E.O. and Co-President

William H. Ford, Co-President

Ford Hotel Supply Company, St. Louis, Missouri

2204 N. Broadway

St. Louis, MO 63102

<http://www.fordstl.com/>

Three generations of the Ford family have provided solutions to the commercial foodservice industry for over 100 years. William S. Ford, Sr. began by going door to door and would make deliveries before going home. Adele Ford expanded the business by selling to hospitals and charities. Their sons, William S. Ford, Jr. and John H. Ford, began selling to hotels and clubs. Both completed engineering degrees and expanded the company's services to include design and equipment. Christy Ford Schlafly began as a purchasing clerk in 1978 after graduating from college. Her brother, William (Bill) H. Ford joined the business in 1981. They now own and run Ford Hotel Supply Company.

Financial Services Champion of the Year

Sandra L. Washington

Senior Vice President

Group Manager & Small Business Sales Manager

Commerce Bank, St. Louis, Missouri

8000 Forsyth Blvd.

Clayton, MO 63105

<http://www.commercebank.com>

Sandra Washington is Senior Vice President - Group Manager & Small Business Sales Manager of Commerce Bank. She joined Commerce Bank in 2003 and is responsible for a group of retail branches in the central area of St. Louis County. Sandy also manages six Small Business Bankers, who offer financial solutions to small business owners throughout the St. Louis area. Washington has 33 years in the banking industry in a variety of capacities.

Minority Champion of the Year

Tracey L. Clark-Jeffries

President and Owner

Capital Consulting Services, St. Louis, Missouri

2125 Bissell Street

St. Louis, MO 63107

admin@traceyjeffries.info

Tracey Clark-Jeffries is President of Capital Consulting Services. Clark-Jeffries oversees and manages a professional development firm that offers small business development services, management, and educational training. She serves as a business mentor and advocate with Grace Hill Women's Business Center. To broaden her reach, Clark-Jeffries established a small business incubator (Direct Impact Business Education Center) that mentors small business in their start-up phase and prepares the companies to become viable businesses.

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Roger Horn

Director of Community and Business Outreach

Veterans Business Resource Center, St. Louis, Missouri

4236 Lindell Blvd, Suite 102

St. Louis, MO 63108

<http://www.vetbiz.com/>

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Roger Horn spent 33 years in military service in the Army and Air National Guard and active duty Air Force. He brought this experience to the Veterans Business Resource Center (VBRC) when he joined as an administrative assistant and counselor in June 2006. He later became Director of Community Outreach. Horn also maintains the current web site and writes programs for use at the VBRC.

Women In Business Champion of the Year

Marcia Conaghan

Program Manager

Grace Hill Women's Business Center, St. Louis, Missouri

2125 Bissell Street

St. Louis, MO 63107

<http://www.gracehillsettlement.org/content/GraceHillWomensBusinessCenter.php>

Marcia Conaghan is Program Manager of Grace Hill Women's Business Center, which focuses on women and minorities in underserved communities. As a public/private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Grace Hill Women's Business Center is a leader in providing business development services to start-ups and existing businesses. The program includes a business plan preparation class and counseling services for class participants and business owners throughout the region. She has a deep commitment to improving businesses and the lives of small business owners.

Entrepreneurial Success Award

Bruce H. Williams

President

US Tool Grinding, Inc., Desloge, Missouri

701 S. Desloge Drive

Desloge, MO 63601

<http://www.ustg.net>

Bruce Williams took a 20 employee family business and turned it into the largest tool regrinding company in the world. He accomplished this through a combination of automation with machinery he designed and built and effective management. He modified, innovated, or invented nearly every manufacturing process used at US Tool today. He redefined US Tool by moving them into the integrated supply business. His AutoGage, a machine to sort dull tools, put US Tool well ahead of the competition and is still the gold standard in the industry.