



U.S. Small Business Administration

SANTA ANA DISTRICT OFFICE

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Frank Montes, Board Member and Past President of Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to Receive 2017 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award

*Supports and collaborates with chambers and minority business associations to
provide small business owners with tools, information, resources, and support*

SANTA ANA, Calif. - The U.S. Small Business Administration, Santa Ana District Office has selected Frank Montes, Board Member and Past President of Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GRHCC) and Chairman of the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (CHCC) as the recipient of the 2017 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award. Montes was nominated for the award by Mohammed Islam, Executive Director for SABAN, South Asian Biz Alliance Network.

Montes' passion to work with diverse small businesses and women's groups began with community volunteering in 2007. As a result of these efforts he received numerous awards and recognitions from local, state, and national leaders for his response to community business issues and his advocacy on behalf of the needs of the business community.

Over the years, Montes has planned and organized many local events to benefit small business owners with a focus on minority-owned businesses. He supports and collaborates with other local chambers and business associations such as the Asian Business Association Inland Empire (ABAIE), Pomona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Fontana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Riverside Black Chamber of Commerce. He also helped to establish a local chapter of National Latina Business Women Association in the Inland Empire (NLBWAIE) and supports young entrepreneurial initiatives such as the Smart Youth Conference in Redlands.

In April 2013, Montes helped create the Joint Organizations Business Success (J.O.B.S) initiative in the Inland Empire, an important endeavor in which forty chambers of commerce and associations collectively signed a Memo of Understanding to support one another through collaboration and sharing of resources. In 2014 he was elected the Vice-Chairman and, shortly thereafter, the Chairman for the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Montes co-owns Inland Body & Paint Center in Fontana with his wife and as a small business owner he understands firsthand the challenges small minority-owned businesses face in California. This undoubtedly contributes to his drive in providing small business owners with the tools, information, resources, and support needed to succeed.

Montes will be recognized and receive his award as 2017 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program which will be held Friday, June 9, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2:00 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more information on the event or to register, email events@ochcc.com or call 714.953.4289.

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About Small Business Week

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. As part of National Small Business Week, the agency takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners and others at local events around the country. Every day, these individuals are working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. For more information, please visit www.sba.gov/nsbw/nsbw.