



News Release

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Coachella Valley Women's Business Center Selected as the 2020 Women's Business Center of Excellence Award Winner

Center of Excellence Focuses on Results and Customer Service

SANTA ANA, Calif. – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office is pleased to announce the Coachella Valley Women's Business Center (CVWBC) as the recipient of the Small Business Week 2020 Women's Business Center of Excellence Award. The CVWBC, led by Project Director Kim Scanlan, was nominated by Michelle Skiljan, Executive Director of the Inland Empire Women's Business Center. Skiljan states, "I am extremely honored to support Kim Scanlan's nomination for the SBA Women's Business Center of Excellence Award, as she and the Coachella Valley Women's Business Center exemplify excellence!"

Scanlan first joined the CVWBC as an administrative assistant in 2007. She worked extremely hard to support the organization and was promoted to training coordinator in 2009. Through her dedication, hard work, and aptitude for growth, she received additional promotions to lead training coordinator, and then to business counselor in 2015. In November 2016, Scanlan accepted the position of interim director, and in October 2017 she became CVWBC's director.

The CVWBC is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and it is a program of the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship (IECE) at the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). CVWBC's mission is to counsel, teach, encourage, and inspire entrepreneurs at every stage of development and expansion. CVWBC provides free business counseling, free and low-cost trainings, mentoring, and access to networking events.

As leader of the CVWBC, Scanlan has been described as passionate, hardworking, dedicated, trustworthy, reliable, responsible, eager, genuine, and caring. Since joining in 2007, Scanlan has been a constant presence at the CVWBC, and her positive influence has helped the organization grow and thrive. Under her guidance, the CVWBC has become revered by many in the local community. The organization has a proven track record of delivering results, innovating to meet community needs, and championing the SBA and women in business.

Scanlan and the CVWBC meet or exceed their performance milestones year after year. They accomplish this through their unwavering dedication to women in business and the community they serve, and through innovative events and programs that meet the needs of small business owners in the Coachella Valley. The CVWBC implements solutions based on the needs of the community to help aspiring and existing business owners. Through the “It’s Your Time - An Entrepreneurial Training Series for Women,” the CVWBC developed strong working relationships that have led to extended engagements with clients, new businesses created, capital infusion to businesses through microloans, exceptional client satisfaction, numerous success stories, and a substantial level of job creation and retainment.

Scanlan uses her position of influence, background, and expertise to counsel and train aspiring and existing women business owners. She uses personal and professional resources to elevate women business owners and to help them reach their full potential. Additionally, Scanlan has partnered with local and state organizations to grow the organization. Never one to shy away from opportunities to help someone interested in starting or growing a business, she has sought collaborations to secure match funds and to help further the reach of the CVWBC.

The SBA Orange County / Inland Empire District is honored in recognizing Kim Scanlan and the Coachella Valley Women’s Business Center as our 2020 Women’s Business Center of Excellence of the Year.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit www.sba.gov.

About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of nearly 100 businesses enrolled in the agency’s 8(a) business development program.