



News Release

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Mark Vaca, President of OCS Construction Services, Inc. Selected as 2019 District Runner-Up Small Business Person of the Year

SANTA ANA, Calif. – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office has selected Mark Vaca, president of OCS Construction Services, Inc. to be recognized as the 2019 District Runner-up Small Business Person of the Year. Vaca was nominated for the award by Karla Gonzalez, procurement business consultant with the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center.

Mark Vaca started his business career in the limousine industry. By chance, Vaca became the driver of choice for a successful general contractor. Eventually, that general contractor encouraged him to join the construction firm as a project coordinator. Vaca spent over a decade honing his expertise in the construction industry, while paying thoughtful attention to the opportunities available through the [SBA 8\(a\) Business Development Program](#). In 2015, he established OCS Construction Services, Inc. a full-service general construction 8(a) company specializing in tenant improvements, renovations, remodels and rehabilitations for federal and other government clients.

In 2016, Vaca entered into an [SBA Mentor-Protégé](#) Agreement that led to three successful 8(a) Joint Venture contracts. When the third JV contract was completed in April 2018, Vaca and OCS were ready to move forward independently of their mentor. Unfortunately, he faced federal budget delays and a slow summer putting him at risk of losing his team. Vaca responded to the situation by paying his employee's portion of health insurance premiums to keep their coverage in place and demonstrate his commitment to the OCS team.

With the support and guidance of the SBA OCIE District Office and the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center, Vaca endured and emerged as a stronger and savvier business owner. Federal funding was eventually released, contracts were awarded, and Vaca called his employees back to work. OCS finished 2018 with more than double its 2017 revenue and employed the largest team yet.

Vaca is not only a dedicated businessperson, he is also eager to support his local community. He has dedicated time to mentor business students from Cal State San Bernardino, serves as a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and makes strategic business decisions to create contracting opportunities for small businesses and other 8(a) certified firms.

Mark Vaca will be recognized and receive his award as the 2019 District Runner-up Small Business Person of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program to be held Friday, June 7 from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. For more information on the event, email events@ochcc.com or call (949) 891-1464.

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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.