



Now Accepting 2018 Small Business Week Award Nominations

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County/Inland Empire District Office is proud to announce it is now accepting nominations for its 2018 Small Business Week Awards, including the annual Small Business Person of the Year award.

Since 1963, National Small Business Week has recognized the outstanding achievements of America's small businesses for their contributions to their local communities, and to our nation's economy. For over 50 years, SBA has continued its tradition in honoring the nation's 28 million small businesses.

SBA's awards are presented in celebration of National Small Business Week, April 29-May 5, 2018, and include the following:

Deadline to Submit Nominations is January 9, 2018

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

National Award Categories

*[SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR](#) (chosen from among state award winners from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam)

*[EXPORTER OF THE YEAR](#)

*[8\(a\) GRADUATE OF THE YEAR](#) (for recent graduates of the SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program)

(*) Denotes a National Award Category and competes at National, State and Local levels – See [Guidelines for National Award Categories](#)

FAMILY OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

SBIR/STTR RECIPIENT OF THE YEAR

WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

MICRO BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Descriptions

***SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**: A business owner who has developed an outstanding, growing business and has overcome adversity, designed innovative product(s), created jobs, increased sales and profits and contributed to the community.

***EXPORTER OF THE YEAR**: A business owner who has significantly increased export sales and has encouraged other firms to export, increased employment through exports, and used innovative methods to create markets abroad.

***8(a) GRADUATE OF THE YEAR**: All formerly certified 8(a) business participants that graduated from the 8(a) program for at least a year as of April 1, 2016. The firm does not have to currently be a small business.

FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: A business that displays one or more of the following traits: Is owned and/or managed by more than one member of the same family; Has passed or has intentions of passing ownership to the next generation.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR: A business owner under 40 years of age at the time of nomination, running their own business, showing creativity, leadership, character, and determination. Business must be profitable and show potential for growth. Young entrepreneur must be in business for at least three years.

SBIR/STTR GRANT RECIPIENT OF THE YEAR: Business or organization that received an SBIR or STTR grant award to further their concept. Entity can demonstrate best use of investment funds to stimulate technical innovation, business impact, broader social and economic benefits with such product. Entity must exemplify the mission and goals of the SBIR/STTR program.

WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Woman owned business with a minimum of three years in business. Demonstrate business success and growth. Show creativity, leadership, character, and determination.

MICRO BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Has a growing business with one to nine employees. Has been in business for more than one year.

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**Small Business Champion Awards**

promote small business. These pursuits include volunteering their time or services to small business interests, participating in small business groups and advocating the cause of small business in the legislative process.

**COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD**: Any organization, department, or chamber that shows significant support for economic development, improved communication with business community, builds trust, creating an environment for business growth and retention, job growth and access to resources.

**VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR**: Nominees must have worked to increase opportunities for veteran owned businesses.

Note: **To nominate a candidate or to obtain more information**, contact Sylvia Gutierrez at (714) 560-7454 or send e-mail to [sylvia.gutierrez@sba.gov](mailto:sylvia.gutierrez@sba.gov).

(\*) denotes a National award category. All other categories compete at the district level tri-county area. Submit complete packages to SBA Orange County/Inland Empire District Office, 5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 900, Santa Ana, CA 92707 by January 9, 2018.

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Get some good tips from this SBA Blog Post: [How to Submit a Winning National Small Business Week Award Nomination](#)

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SBA's participation is not an endorsement of the views, opinions, products or services of any participants, person or entity.

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! This is a great place where ideas and information are shared with the small business community. Your feedback, questions, and comments allow us to better serve the needs of small business owners and entrepreneurs.

## SBA Orange County / Inland Empire District Office

5 Hutton Centre, Suite 900  
Santa Ana, CA 92707  
Phone: 714-550-7420 TDD 800-877-8339  
[www.sba.gov/ca/santa](http://www.sba.gov/ca/santa)

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