



News Release

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SBA Announces Annual Award Winners

Michael R. Cote, President & CEO of Look's Gourmet Food Company receives Small Business Person of the Year Award

Augusta, Maine – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced its annual award winners for 2012. Michael R. Cote, President and CEO of Look's Gourmet Food Company has been selected to receive the prestigious Small Business Person of the Year award.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and recognizing those who work so hard to succeed and create new jobs is truly an honor,” said Maurice “Moe” Dubé, SBA District Director for Maine. “It is a particular privilege to present this award to Michael R. Cote, who has demonstrated an impressive record of achievement as owner of Look's Gourmet Food Company.

Cote formed Look's Gourmet Food Company, formerly the A.M. Look Canning Company, in 2003. The company produces branded and private label all-natural specialty seafood and seafood related products, including clam juice, certified whole Maine lobster, New England clam chowder and gourmet baked beans. Since 2003, Look's has grown to 28 employees and has received national recognition for its growth and business practices.

Cote was nominated for this award by Harold Clossey, Executive Director of Sunrise County Economic Council in Machias.

Cote will be honored at an SBA celebration luncheon on May 17, 2012 at the Augusta Civic Center.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and assists our nation's small businesses in creating jobs, preserving free competitive enterprise, and strengthening the overall economy of our nation. With an ongoing commitment to provide access to capital, government contracting opportunities and technical assistance to our small businesses, the SBA currently has a small business loan portfolio of nearly \$93 billion working to facilitate the success of our nation's entrepreneurs.

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