



# *News Release*

**Maine District Office**

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## **SBA Announces Annual Award Winners**

### **Sherry Brown, Susan Pope, Jane Harmon and Bonnie Pothier of Key Bank named Women in Business Champions of the Year**

Augusta, Maine – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced its annual award winners for 2012. Sherry Brown, Susan Pope, Jane Harmon and Bonnie Pothier of Key Bank’s Key4Women Champions have been selected to receive the prestigious Women in Business Champion of the Year award.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and recognizing those who work so hard to facilitate their success is truly an honor,” said Maurice “Moe” Dubé, SBA District Director for Maine. “It is a particular privilege to present this award to these four women, who have demonstrated a longstanding and ongoing commitment to create economic opportunities for women and minority business owners in Maine,” added Dubé.

Brown, Pope, Harmon and Pothier comprise the Key4Women Champions in Maine, which is recognized for its contributions to women and minority business owners through advocacy and partnerships with Women, Work & Community, the Maine Women’s Policy Center and the Maine Small Business Development Centers.

Brown, Pope, Harmon and Pothier were nominated for this award by Gilliam Britt, partner in gBritt PR in South Portland, Maine.

Brown, Pope, Harmon and Pothier 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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