



News Release

WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

Release Date: October 4, 2012
Release Number: 13-01PR

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Parkersburg Businesswoman Named West Virginia and Region 3 2012 Minority Small Business Person of Year

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. – Judy K. Sheppard, president and CEO of Professional Services of America, Inc. (PSA) located in Parkersburg, has been named as the 2012 West Virginia and Region 3 Minority Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. As the SBA Region 3 recipient, Sheppard will be in the running for National Small Business Person of the Year on Oct. 10 during the SBA and U.S. Black Chamber, Inc. Awards Ceremony at the Carnegie Library in Washington, D.C.

“The presentation of this prestigious award provides us the opportunity to recognize the entrepreneurial achievements not only of Judy Sheppard, but of the minority small business community as well,” said SBA Regional Administrator Natalia Olson-Urtecho.

Sheppard will be recognized as 2012 West Virginia and Region 3 Minority Small Business Person of the Year at the Women in Technology Conference held at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling. The conference, sponsored by TechConnect West Virginia, is set for Oct. 18-19 with the ceremony to be held during the Oct. 18 luncheon.

“PSA, a participant in the SBAs 8(a) business development program, has shown tremendous business growth during their involvement in the program. This, I believe, is a direct reflection of the entrepreneurial abilities of Judy Sheppard. I am thrilled to be able to recognize her as the 2012 West Virginia and Region 3 Minority Small Business Person of the Year,” said SBA West Virginia Director Judy McCauley.

This year marks the 30th year that the SBA will recognize outstanding owners of minority small business for their individual achievements, contributions to our nation’s economy and those who best exemplify entrepreneurial success. Since 1983, the President of the United States has designated a day in recognition of the minority small business community’s contribution to our nation’s economy.

Sheppard, a Native American, established PSA in 1989 with two employees and has grown the business to over 244 full-time employees in 40 states with an office presence in Washington, D.C., Gulfport, Miss., Chicago, Ill., and Fort Bliss, Texas. Under Sheppard’s leadership, PSA doubled in size and today is a \$12 million business with federal and commercial contracts. The company is engaged in a wide variety of different yet complimentary services with the primary focus to provide human resource staffing and project management and development services to meet the needs of clients in government and corporate sectors.

For information on the Oct. 10 National 8(a) Training, Business Matchmaking and Awards Conference, visit <https://sba.mybusinessmatches.com>. For information and to register for the Oct. 18 Women in Technology Conference, visit <http://techconnectwv.wildapricot.org>.

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The mission of the SBA is to aid, counsel, assist and promote the interests of small businesses by providing financial, and advocating on their behalf within the government. All SBA programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.