



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: October 7, 2015
Release Number: 15-79

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SBA Accepting 2016 National Small Business Week Nominations

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration is now accepting nominations for its 2016 National Small Business Week Awards, including Small Business Person of the Year. Since 1963, National Small Business Week has recognized the outstanding achievements of America’s small businesses.

“National Small Business Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact these entrepreneurial spirits have on their communities and this nation’s economy,” said SBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Natalia Olson-Urtecho who serves as one of several competition judges for her region. “Small businesses are our real economic engines, and I look forward to seeing a strong competitive field again this year.”

The dedicated website <http://awards.sba.gov> provides criteria and guidelines for submitting a nomination, as well as a nomination portal. For 2016, nomination criteria are streamlined and simplified with one form and questionnaire.

SBA Awards given in celebration of National Small Business Week, May 2-6, 2016, include the following:

- **Small Business Person of the Year**
 - One from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.
- **Exporter of the Year**
- **Phoenix Awards for Disaster Recovery**
 - Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery
 - Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery, Public Official
 - Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery, Volunteer
- **Federal Procurement Awards**
 - Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year
 - Small Business Subcontractor of the Year
 - Dwight D. Eisenhower Awards for Excellence (for large prime contractors who use small businesses as suppliers and contractors)
 - 8(a) Graduate of the Year
- **Jody C. Raskind Lender of the Year**
- **Small Business Investment Company of the Year**

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- **Awards to SBA Resource Partners**
 - Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Excellence and Innovation Center Award
 - Women's Business Center of Excellence Award
 - Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Year

All nominations must be submitted no later than 3 p.m. EST, Monday, Jan. 11, 2016. In addition to the website, nominations can also be sent directly to an SBA District Office – for contact information and other District Office information visit online at <http://www.sba.gov/wv>.

In addition to SBA's National Small Business Week Awards nominations, SBA's West Virginia District Office is seeking district level nominations for the following awards:

- WV Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- WV Encore Entrepreneur of the Year
- WV Family-Owned Small Business of the Year
- WV Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year
- WV Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year
- WV Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year
- WV Small Business Champion of the Year

All district level nominations must be submitted/ postmarked by Monday, Jan. 11, 2016. District level awards must be sent directly to SBA's West Virginia District Office. For more information on district level awards visit www.sba.gov/wv or contact Nikki Bowmar at nikki.bowmar@sba.gov or 304-623-7445.

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