

Small Business Media Champion Bobby Nesbitt, Georgia Trend Magazine



Georgia Trend, the magazine of Georgia business, politics and economic development since 1985, is the only statewide business publication in the market. *Georgia Trend* is published once a month with two extra issues: *Business Georgia* and *Small Business Guide*. It is delivered to more than 50,000 subscribers and has become indispensable to the leaders that shape our state. Bobby has tirelessly covered every major initiative that the SBA Georgia District Office has launched. Additionally, he takes a special interest in the Small Business Week winners ensuring that readers throughout the state recognize their achievements and hard work.

**Women in Business Champion
Tiffany Hines, Global Escapes Inc.**



Tiffany Hines is a consummate advocate for volunteering and giving back to the community. She works as mentor and sustainer for Junior League of America and the Oconee, Athens Clarke County's chambers of commerce. Her efforts to mentor and develop young women in the business world led to her being awarded the Athena Award by the chamber. She truly cares about and devotes her time to improving the lives of others and helping women realize their potential in business and leadership.

**Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Labriah Holt, Sweet Roots Hair Bar**



As a traveling professional that was always on the go she struggled to find the time and salons that were able to care for her hair. Utilizing one of the trademark skills of a great entrepreneur, the ability to see a need, she decided to open a salon that was not only time efficient, but also could cater to all hair types. Bree founded Sweetroots Hair Bar to fill that niche. The business is achieving unprecedented success, growing from 2 employees to 7 in the first year. Additionally, Bree has interns and apprentices from the local universities learning not only how to style hair, but also how to run a business. Plans are being developed to open additional locations.

**Small Business Persons of the Year
Jeff Lamont, Becky Lamont, Pathways Behavioral Consulting**



In 2014, Rebecca and Jeff Lamont founded Pathways Behavioral Consulting, a therapy service provider for individuals with autism and related disorders, in Atlanta, Georgia. With guidance and support from the UGA SBDC, they have grown the business from a startup to an industry leading firm. The Lamont's passion for helping others is evidenced by not only their business, but also in their community service, such as the supporting the annual Autism Speaks 5k and serving on the board in the local Cobb County Chamber of Commerce.

8a Graduate
Guiomar Obregon, Precision 2000



Guiomar is the CEO and co-founder of Precision 2000. Precision 200 is an award winning construction company that builds infrastructure projects like roads, airports and military bases. The company was started from her family's home and has grown exponentially, to have offices all over the US and in Bogota, Columbia. Under her leadership, Precision 2000 has seen steady increases in revenue and sales and has successfully graduated the SBA 8a program.

Exporter of the Year Sean Casey, Rotorcorp



Sean Casey wanted to setup export financing so that he could sell his company's parts internationally. Sean realized that his company's financials, Rotorcorp Inc., were not in order and no bank would approve them. Sean sought out the Small Business Development Center in Atlanta for assistance. The veteran- owned business is located in a low-income community from which it hires. The financing allowed the company to be able to reach customers in 45 countries, creating five new jobs.

Second Chance Hiring Champion Mike Glover, Nancy's Pizza, Midtown



In 2004, Mike started working with a program that allowed women to work in his restaurant a few hours a day. The program worked so well that he expanded his business and brought in more women. Women in the program now comprise more than 85% of his entire staff. Mike proudly says that his second chance hires are his most dependable employees and he owes a lot of his business success to their hard work and dedication. To date, he has hired and assisted more than 500 women.

**Rural-Owned Small Business of the Year
Charles W Cowart, Charles P Cowart, Still Pond Inc.**



Charlie Cowart Sr. started over 45 years ago by planting a few muscadines, a grape variety native to the South... Still Pond Vineyard was born. The vineyard did well and Charlie Sr., along with his wife Peggy, continued to expand the vineyard with additional plantings each year. What started out as a location for weary Confederate troops to gain a little comfort with a bottle of peach brandy has now become one of the largest commercial vineyards in Georgia. Charlie Cowart Sr's small planting of muscadines has grown to become a commercial operation that is a reliable supplier of fresh muscadine juice for a growing list of wineries across the Southeastern United States.