



U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Wyoming District Office Presents National Small Business Week Awards to Wyoming Small Businesses

Wyoming's Top Small Businesses were Honored During Virtual Event



(Wyoming winners Brady Lewis, WWC Engineering, [right row, fourth tile down]; Aiden Emilo, Rex Specs [middle row, second tile down]; and Amber Pollack, Backwards Distilling [middle row, third tile down])

CASPER – The U.S. Small Business Administration, in partnership with the Wyoming Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network and the Wyoming Business Council, presented this year's National Small Business Week state-level awards during a virtual ceremony Sept. 22, 2020.

Originally slated for May 3-9, the annual celebration was postponed as a result of the widespread impacts caused by COVID-19.

For nearly 60 years, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Wyoming State Auditor Kristi Racines delivered the keynote address, and Wyoming Business Council CEO Josh Dorrell, Wyoming SBDC State Director Jill Kline and SBA Office of Rural Affairs Senior Advisor Renee Bender provided additional remarks.

"I am continually amazed and taken aback by the innovation, the perseverance and tenacity of Wyoming's small businesses," said Auditor Racines, who also led Gov. Mark Gordon's Business and Financial Sector Task Force. "I think, especially this year, it's important that our small businesses – particularly the ones we're recognizing today – be celebrated this week and during this crisis."

The following businesses were honored during yesterday's event:

- **Wyoming Small Business Persons of the Year** – Brady Lewis and team, WWC Engineering, Sheridan, Wyo.
- **Wyoming Exporter of the Year** – Aiden and Jesse Emilo, Rex Specs, Jackson, Wyo.
- **Spirit of Wyoming Award** – Amber Pollock and family, Backwards Distilling Company, Casper, Wyo.

"There are many extraordinary companies in Wyoming, and many companies that are facing challenges they've never faced before and finding creative solutions, so we're very honored to receive this award." said Brady Lewis, CEO of Wyoming-based WWC Engineering. "This year does mark WWC's 40th anniversary, and I'd just like to say we look forward to many more years of supporting our communities and our economy."

Those who wish to view a recording of the event may do so by visiting:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2686515235296378370>

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with

the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.