



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Vice President Richard B. Cheney, U.S. Small Business Administration, Honor Nation's Women Entrepreneurs

Event highlights women-owned businesses growing at record rates

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration today highlighted the success of women-owned businesses in the United States by recognizing 17 of the nation's best and brightest women entrepreneurs at a breakfast event at the Washington Hilton & Towers.

Vice President Richard B. Cheney joined SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto to honor women who have launched ventures and achieved remarkable success. Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina also spoke via satellite.

The breakfast is one of the key events of the SBA's 50th anniversary National Entrepreneurial Conference & Expo, taking place this week in Washington, D.C. The conference also kicks off a series of regional forums discussing small business and economic growth.

The number of women-owned businesses is growing at twice the rate of all U.S. businesses. Women are owners in more than 10 million businesses in the U.S., account for 35 percent of all businesses, employ 27.5 million workers and generate \$3.6 trillion in revenues.

"I'm delighted to recognize the contributions that women business owners have made and continue to make to our economy and our way of life," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "Women-owned businesses are growing so quickly, and are creating so many jobs; they are the future of our workplace and our economy."

SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus hosted the event, at which representatives of more than 100 women's business organizations attended. Sabelhaus made the presentation to the winners of the Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur Award.

"These 17 women have achieved the American Dream," said Sabelhaus. "With their dedication, passion and vision they have become successful entrepreneurs, and the SBA is proud to have helped them along the way. Truly, these women represent the entrepreneurial spirit of America."

The 17 honorees came from all over the country and were selected by a cross-section of SBA programs and SBA partner organizations. All started their business with help from the SBA.

Attached is a list of the 17 winners.

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List of 17 Winners, in alphabetical order:

Barbara Baekgaard and Patricia Miller (co-founders)

Vera Bradley Designs, Ft. Wayne, IN

Pamela Barefoot

Blue Crab Bay, Onancock, VA

Donna Asmann

Clark Manufacturing, Wellington, KS

Tina Cordova

Queston Construction, Albuquerque, NM

Patty DeDominic

The PDQ Careers Group, Los Angeles, CA

Lurita Doan

New Technology Management, Winchester, VA

Kathryn Freeland

RGII Technologies, Annapolis, MD

Judy George

Domain Homes, Norwood, MA

Heather Howitt (co-founders: Tedde McMillen, Carla Powell, and Lori Woolfrey)

Oregon Chai Portland, OR

Rebecca Matthais

Mothers Work, Philadelphia, PA

Marilyn Melkonian

Telesis Corporation, Washington, DC

Carolyn Minerich

Carmin Industries, Jacksonville, AL

Julie Morgenstern

Julie Morgenstern Professional Organizers, New York, NY

Nikki Olyai

Innovision Technologies Novi, MI

Dr. Taryn Rose

Taryn Rose International, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Maria Welch

Respira Medical (In-Home Service & Assistance LS) Baltimore, MD

Jeannette Lee White

Sytel, Bethesda, MD

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