



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Hosts First-Ever Young Entrepreneurship Program During SBA Expo '04 in Orlando

WASHINGTON – Fifty young entrepreneurs from across the country have been selected to travel to Orlando, Fla., May 18-19 to receive entrepreneurial training and compete with their peers for top honors at the kickoff of National Small Business Week and *SBA Expo '04*, the SBA's annual national small business conference.

"Small businesses are the backbone of the nation's economy, and we want to do everything we can to encourage young people to learn about entrepreneurship so that they can carry on that tradition," SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. "That is why we partnered with the National Entrepreneurship Association to highlight these young entrepreneurs. For the first time ever during National Small Business Week, we will gather 50 outstanding young entrepreneurs to help them enter into the exciting world of business."

The first of two days of sessions consist of various forums and a series of seminars entitled: "Principled Leadership," "Cost-Effective Operational Strategies to Manage Data & Communications," and "Intrapreneurship: The Corporate Entrepreneur." The second day's session will consist of a seminar entitled "Conducting Effective Strategic Planning," workshops on contracting and financing, and a luncheon forum.

The young entrepreneurs will vie for top honors at the conclusion of the two-day event. Before arriving in Orlando, the young entrepreneurs were asked to write a business plan. At the program, the top six business plans will be presented to judges representing various disciplines and backgrounds. Each presentation will be limited to 15 minutes. The winner of the business plan competition will be announced on the evening of May 19.

Following the Young Entrepreneur Program, the participants will be invited to attend *SBA Expo '04*, taking place May 19-21 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. The youths will gain exposure to additional seminars and network with successful business owners, corporate executives and government officials.

For additional information about *SBA Expo '04*, including a complete schedule of events and online registration, visit www.sba.gov.

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