



News Release

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SBA Honors National Small Business Champions For Their Support for Small Businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Nine small business owners and leaders of small business support organizations from across the country were recognized today by the U.S. Small Business Administration for their outstanding achievements on behalf of small business. SBA Champion Awards were presented at an evening reception on April 12 in Washington, D.C. as part of the annual observance of *National Small Business Week*, April 9-15.

“The SBA takes great pride in honoring people who are among the true champions of small business and whose tireless efforts have provided tangible and significant support to small businesses and their communities,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “They provide the tools, information and support that small business owners need; and most of all, help to create an environment in which the spirit of entrepreneurship can flourish.”

The award winners are recognized for their efforts and excellence in many different aspects of small business. SBA Champions can be, but are not limited to, small business owners, supporters of small business, women, minorities, families, exporters, journalists, veterans, or young entrepreneurs.

This year’s Champion Awards recognize winners from California, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah, Vermont and Virginia.

The winners are:

2006 Financial Services Champion

Rita Mitchell, Vice President, Regional Sales
Wachovia Small Business Lending
Thousand Oaks, California

2006 SBA Young Entrepreneur Champion

Genevieve F. Thiers, CEO & Founder
Sittercity.com
Chicago, Illinois

2006 Veteran Champion

Andrew Douglas Davis, Chairman & Co-Founder
Comfort for Courage
Minneapolis, Minnesota

2006 Exporter Champion

John Miller, President
Oxbow Pet Products
Murdock, Nebraska

2006 Jeffery Butland Family-Owned Business Champion

Pedro A. “Tony” Fernandez, President
Albuquerque Printing Company
Albuquerque, New Mexico

2006 Journalist Champion

Jerry Chautin, Business Writer, columnist, and
SCORE Volunteer, Cherokee Scout
Murphy, North Carolina

2006 Minority Champion

Elaine K. Bland, General Manager
Lickity Split Chocolate Studio, LLC
Blanding, Utah

2006 Women in Business Champion

Janet Bullard, Office and Program Manager
Vermont Commission on Women
Montpelier, Vermont

2006 Home-Based Business Champion

Rosemin A. Mohammed, Owner
ABC 123 Academy
Dale City, Virginia

Selected from nomination packages submitted to SBA field offices in their communities, the awardees are being recognized on the basis of having met one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.
- Showed evidence of success, if a small business, as measured by sales and profits.
- Displayed voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance small business interests within the small business community, state and/or nation.
- Provided support of the small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
- Engaged in other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective support of small business.

Small Business Week 2006 is co-sponsored by the following organizations: Sam's Club, Intel, Microsoft, SCORE, Raytheon, the Kauffman Foundation, Nationwide, IBM, Verizon Communications, Johnson & Johnson, BAE Systems, KBR, Cisco Systems, Fiducial, Aetna, Administaff and Symantec.

For additional information on Small Business Week 2006, including a full schedule of events and information on all award winners, go online to www.sba.gov/sbw.

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*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses,
Visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.*

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