



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA RECOGNIZED FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUCCESSES

SBA Officials Among Ranks of Distinguished FCW Federal 100

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration was highlighted for its achievements in information technology as two SBA officials were awarded the prestigious *Federal Computer Week* “Federal 100” Award this year, the agency announced.

The award recognizes top executives from government, industry and academia who had the greatest impact on the government information systems community in 2001.

“The SBA recognizes and employs cutting-edge technologies, and I want to commend the employees who are dedicated to making this happen,” SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. **“Information technology offers new and better ways to improve customer service – and the SBA is committed to using all avenues to make its products and services more accessible and easier to understand for small businesses, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”**

For his successful management of the agency’s information technology programs—including e-government initiatives and the use of the Internet to improve the agency’s services to the public—Lawrence E. Barrett, SBA’s chief information officer, was among the FCW “Federal 100.”

Since its debut in 1994 as one of the first federal agency Web sites on the Internet, the SBA site has garnered over 18 industry awards. In addition to providing essential information on growing and starting a business and SBA programs, it is also the premier resource for small businesses seeking new business opportunities. The Web site offers numerous searchable databases for this purpose, including *PRO-Net* and *SUB-Net* for contracting and subcontracting, *Trade Mission Online* and *Trade-Net* for exporting, *Tech-Net* for technology grants, and the *U.S. Business Advisor*, an electronic link to all government business information and services.

Patricia Cavanaugh, SBA’s Seattle district counsel, also received the FCW “Federal 100” Award for her efforts in developing *BusinessLaw.gov*, SBA’s newest Web site created to help ease the burden of laws and regulations for small businesses. Cavanaugh assembled a virtual team

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of 250 experts, volunteers from SBA and other federal and state agencies, universities and industry, to create *BusinessLaw.gov*. Launched in December 2001, the Web site brings federal, state and local legal information to one central access point and helps small business owners learn about the laws and regulations that affect their operations. *BusinessLaw.gov* will serve as the foundation for the Business Compliance One-Stop, one of the 24 projects at the core of the Bush administration's e-government strategy.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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