



News Release

San Antonio District Office

17319 San Pedro, Building #2, Suite 200, San Antonio, TX 78232

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Contact: Lucille Salinas, PIO, 210/403-5921
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/tx/sanantonio

SBA HONORS 2009 SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

SAN ANTONIO, TX –The San Antonio District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the South-West Texas Border Small Business Development Center Network is proud to announce the 2009 Small Business Week winners at a special awards event to be held on May 12, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Downtown Campus, 501 W. Durango, Buena Vista Theatre Room 1.326, San Antonio, Texas, 78207.

Every year since 1963, every President of the United States has declared a National Small Business Week to formally recognize the important role and contribution of America's small businesses. National and local events recognize top entrepreneurs for their achievements to include those individuals and organizations who champion small business. Special recognition is also given to SBA Resource Partners and community organizations for their outstanding efforts in business and entrepreneurial development.

Small Business Award Winners will be recognized by SBA District Director Pamela Sapia. Winners in the small business categories are chosen by a panel of judges based on the nominee's record of business stability, growth in employment, sales increase, financial performance, business innovation, response to adversity, and contributions to the community. Small Business Champions are chosen based on their advocacy efforts to support home-based and women-owned businesses, minority entrepreneurship; Financial Champions are chosen for their efforts in providing financial services to small business owners; and Journalist Champions are selected for their stories highlighting local small business owners, as well as topics and issues directly affecting small businesses.

District Director Sapia will also recognize an SBDC center for outstanding service; SCORE counselors from both the San Antonio and Austin SCORE chapters for all the training and counseling efforts to the small business communities they serve; and a community organization for its strategic alliance and support efforts to assist small businesses.

District Director Pamela Sapia is proud to announce the San Antonio District Office 2009 Small Business Week Award Winners:

SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Valerie Gonzalez, President & CEO
Delicious, Inc. dba Delicious Tamales

HOME-BASED BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Shana M. Prichard, MBA, Founder & CEO
Realign, LLC

MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Lacy Hampton, Small, Women & Minority Business Enterprise Administrator
Alamo Community College

FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Kenan Pankau, Business Loan Officer
Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union

WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Anita Uribe Martin, Assistant Director
City of San Antonio Economic Development Department

SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

David Hendricks, Business Columnist
San Antonio Express-News

SCORE COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR

Richard Jozwiakowski, Austin SCORE Chapter
Rupert Gresham, San Antonio SCORE Chapter

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT DIRECTOR’S ALLIANCE AWARD

Free Trade Alliance San Antonio

SBDC SERVICE EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER AWARD OF THE YEAR

UTSA Institute for Economic Development, International Trade Center
for the South-West Texas Border SBDC Network Office

South-West Texas Border Small Business Development Center Network Regional Director Al Salgado will recognize a counselor from the SBDC network for outstanding work and outreach to the small business community.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER STATE STAR COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

Mike Reyes, Business Advisor
University of Texas at San Antonio Small Business Development Center

To join in honoring “the best of the best,” RSVP no later than May 7, 2009 by contacting Frances Riojas at (210) 458-2425 or by email at frances.riojas@utsa.edu. There is no charge to attend and join our 2009 award winners in celebrating their accomplishments.

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All of SBA’s programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.



Success News

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PATRICIA TOVAR **An SBA Partner for Small Businesses**

SAN ANTONIO, TX – Senior Economic Development Specialist Patricia Tovar has been employed with the City of San Antonio Economic Development Department for over 20 years, and has been with the Small Business Outreach Division Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) since 2007.

Mrs. Tovar has been an SBA and small business advocate for over twenty years, continuously reaching out to small business and utilizing her knowledge and experience to support the San Antonio small business community. She continuously provides many small business owners one-on-one assistance in understanding the various small business certifications and assisting them to in registering their small business on the Central Contracting Registration (CCR), the primary registrant (contracting) database of the Federal Government. She has also been instrumental in assisting small businesses in understanding and applying for SBA's Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) certification. Additionally, her in-depth knowledge of the various certifications has been essential when helping small business better understand the purpose and process for certifying their business and how the various certifications will assist them in competing for work at the city, county, state and federal level.

Ms. Tovar works tirelessly to promote SBA programs and participate in SBA workshops and presentations. She has developed a great rapport with all of the local military procuring activities and small business contracting officers; thus, adding an additional asset to her arsenal of knowledge and outreach.

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Mrs. Tovar is active in many events and conferences throughout the City of San Antonio, to include the annual Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (SMWBE) conference. She has also served as President of the San Antonio Business Opportunity Council (SABOC), an organization of federal small business offices in the San Antonio area; has chaired the Youth Entrepreneur Committee for Minority Enterprise Development; is a member of the Member of the Association of Government Marketing Association Specialist (AGMAS) and National Contracting Management Association (NCMSA; awarded the San Antonio STAR Award for going beyond the call of duty; and was awarded the 2005 Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Regional Director's Award.

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The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created by Congress in 1953 to support and encourage the creation and success of the small businesses. SBA offers a wide range of financial and business assistance and disaster relief services. For more information on SBA programs and service visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov.

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