



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Internet Address: www.sba.gov/fl/north

Contact: Lola Kress (904) 443-1933
lola.kress@sba.gov

TOP SBA LENDERS HONORED

Lender Awards Presented to North Florida Lenders by the SBA North Florida District Office in Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Fla.- Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Florida District Office recognized 9 Top SBA Lenders from across North Florida (43 county area) during the 18th Annual Small Business Week Celebration and Lender Awards Luncheon hosted by the Small Business Development Center at the University of North Florida. Over 300 were in attendance at this outstanding event.

Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, SBA District Director, provided an update on the Recovery Act and the accomplishments of the North Florida lenders for assisting the small businesses of Florida with access to capital. For more information on the Recovery Act, please visit www.sba.gov/recovery.

The Lender Award recipients were recognized for their achievements in SBA lending for Fiscal Year 2009. "We are very pleased to celebrate the tremendous achievements of these top SBA lenders. We anticipate another great year of SBA lending ahead of us," says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, District Director.

The following lenders received awards at the May 13th event in Jacksonville:

Top 7(a) Lender By Dollar Amount

Wachovia SBA Lending



Top 7(a) Lender By Number of Loans

Superior Financial Group



Top Certified Development Company (# of Loans)

Florida Business Development Corporation



Top 1st Mortgage Lender

Regions Bank



Credit Union of the Year

Fairwinds Credit Union

Top Microlender
Community Enterprise Investments, Inc.



Top ARC Loan Lender
SunTrust



Top Small/Rural Advantage Lender
Alarion Bank



Top Community Bank SBA Lender
First Coast Community Bank

For more information on the lender awards or on SBA's Programs and Services in North Florida, please contact the SBA North Florida District Office's Lola Kress Naylor at (904) 443-1933 or lola.naylor@sba.gov.

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