



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: March 12, 2010

Release Number: 10-07

Contact: Dennis Byrne (202) 205-6567

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

SBA Salutes Small Businesses Who Drive America's Economy At National Small Business Week May 23-25, 2010

Event Features Awards, Forums, and the Naming of National Small Business Person of the Year – Events Open To The Public

WASHINGTON – Small business owners, the news media and others are invited to attend the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week where the nation's top entrepreneurs will be hailed during events held May 23-25, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Interested parties can register online at www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com where additional information is available. The event will also be webcast live at the web site.

Small business owners and entrepreneurs from across the country will be honored for their accomplishments as the nation's leading small businesses. The highlight of events will be the announcement of the *National Small Business Person of the Year*.

"America's small businesses are proving their resiliency as they continue to drive economic growth and job creation," said SBA Administrator Karen Mills. "During National Small Business Week we'll honor the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation and determination that makes small businesses the engine of our economy and our nation's economic recovery. We'll celebrate the contributions that small businesses make to our economy, to our global competitiveness, and to our daily lives."

National Small Business Week 2010 will begin with three days of events in Washington, D.C., at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where more than 100 outstanding business owners from across the country will be recognized. In addition to the State Small Business Persons of the Year, individuals involved in disaster recovery, government procurement, small business champions, as well as SBA partners in financial and entrepreneurial development will be honored.

Highlights of the event this year include: the Keynote speech by SBA Administrator Karen Mills; a town hall discussion on how small businesses are driving america's economy; and a series of executive panel forums on Innovation, Exporting and Social Media.

Individuals also will be recognized for their involvement in government contracting, and their support for small businesses and entrepreneurship. Awards also will be presented to SBA partners in financial and entrepreneurial development, including best SCORE Chapter, Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center during 2009.

(more)

Small Business Week award winners will meet with top agency officials, congressional representatives and national business leaders. The State Small Business Award Winners and recipients of the Champion and other Entrepreneurial awards are nominated by local trade associations, chambers of commerce and business organizations and government agencies.

Small Business Week 2010 Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday, May 23, 2010

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration Open

Pre-function Area

Registration Sponsor: AT&T

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Opening Networking Reception

Hillwood & Hillwood Foyer

Sponsor: Ford Motor Company

Monday, May 24, 2010

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration Open

Pre-function Area

Cyber Café Open (Sackler Room)

Sponsor: Google

8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Breakfast Honoring the Entrepreneurial Development
and Lender Award Winners**

Grand Ballroom

Sponsor: Northrop Grumman

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Keynote Address by Administrator Karen Mills

Oriental Ballroom

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Small Business: Driving America’s Economy

Oriental Ballroom

Sponsor: eBay

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Phoenix Awards Luncheon — Disaster Recovery Award Winners

Grand Ballroom

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Innovation Forum — Turning Innovation into Jobs

Oriental Ballroom

Sponsor: Cbeyond

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Exporting Forum: Customers, Profits, Jobs and Growth – Take
Your Business Global!**

Oriental Ballroom

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Evening Reception

U.S. Department of State (attendance restricted)

(more)

