



U.S. Small Business Administration

News Release

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Contact: Cecelia Taylor (202) 401-3059
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

SBA Honors Counseling Champions for Contributions to the Nation's Small Businesses

SCORE Chapter, Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center of the Year Announced

WASHINGTON – The Orange County Calif. SCORE Chapter, a New Mexico Women's Business Center, and a New York Small Business Development Center received national awards today for their outstanding service and assistance to entrepreneurs in their communities.

These outstanding resource partners were recognized during a National Small Business Week award event in Washington, D.C., taking place May 23-25. The event, sponsored by Northrop Grumman, also highlighted lender awards from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

'During national small business week we honor those who stand beside and support small businesses as they create jobs,' said SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills. 'Because of our resource partners we are able to touch the lives of over a million small businesses each year that are the engine of our nation's economy.'

The Entrepreneurial Development Award categories include the National SCORE Chapter of the Year, the Women's Business Center of Excellence Award, and the Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award. The 2010 award winners are:

SCORE Chapter of the Year

Carl Woodard, Chair
Bill Morland, District Director
Orange County SCORE
Santa Ana, CA

Women's Business Center of Excellence Award

Anthony Urquidez, Regional Manager
Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team
(WESST) Roswell Women's Business Center
Roswell, NM

Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award

Eric Constance, Regional Director
Elizabeth Ann Durant, Assistant Director
John T. Gould, Senior Business Adviser

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Sarah O'Connell, Business Adviser
Robin E. Stephenson, Business Adviser
Lawrence R. Perras, Senior Business Adviser
John R. Halleron, Advanced Business Adviser
Watertown Small Business Development Center
Jefferson Community College
Watertown, NY

The SCORE Chapter of the Year Award honors a chapter whose volunteer counselors have exceeded high standards for counseling small business clients, including expanding counseling services and programs that benefit the local small business community. Orange County SCORE has demonstrated exceptional service growth, successful public outreach, and excellent client satisfaction. The chapter served more than 11,000 clients through counseling sessions and workshops last year. Orange County SCORE led all SCORE chapters with the most clients served from 2004-2009.

The Women's Business Center of Excellence Award honors a Women's Business Center for its excellence and innovation helping women entrepreneurs through a wide variety of training and counseling. The Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team is a top-performing SBA Women's Business Center, providing business counseling, training, technical assistance and support to women, minority, rural and low-income clients in New Mexico. The impact and reach of the WESST Roswell WBC in its largely rural territory has made important contributions to economic growth in Roswell and southeastern New Mexico. The Roswell WBC has annually achieved or exceeded its economic impact targets, especially in helping small businesses gain access to capital. This year it achieved its 2010 annual goal for helping small business owners secure start-up and expansion capital in just the first quarter. Among its many services, the center contains an in-house business incubator that hosts various women and minority-owned small businesses.

The Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award honors a SBDC Service Center for providing value to small businesses and advancing program delivery and management through innovation. The Watertown SBDC has a proven record of helping small businesses create jobs in rural upstate New York. Located at Jefferson Community College, Watertown is part of a network of SBDCs in the New York state. The center combines resources from the college and the local, state and federal governments to help small businesses address a range of organizational, financial, marketing and technical business issues. The center's business counselors are the keys to its success, providing direct counseling and training to business owners. Started in 1986, the Watertown SBDC has helped nearly 15,000 clients, who have created more than 6,900 jobs. It's helped its clients secure more than \$190 million through U.S. Small Business Administration-backed loans, private bank loans, venture capital, and individual direct investments.

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SCORE, Women's Business Centers, and Small Business Development Centers are part of SBA's extensive network for small business counseling and training at every level, and are located strategically throughout the United States. In fiscal year 2009, these valued resource partners provided services to more than one million clients nationwide.

Events during National Small Business Week can be viewed virtually through SBA's free, live webcasting accessible online at www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com. Additional information on all National Small Business Week awards is also available online.

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Small Business Week 2010 sponsors and cosponsors include: Sam's Club, Visa, Ford, ADP, Raytheon, Cbeyond, UPS, Intuit, Google, eBay, AT&T, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, D&B, Verio, Nomadic Display, ASBDC, NADCO, NAGGL, NASE, NSBA, WIPP and SCORE.

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