



Meeting Challenges... Achieving Success

2009 North Carolina Small Business Champions



2009 NC Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Robyn G. Hamilton Charlotte, NC

Hamilton has over 17 years experience helping the small and minority business community. She currently serves as the President & CEO of the Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council (Carolinas MSDC).



2009 NC Veterans Small Business Champion of the Year Joseph Marchesani Waxhaw, NC

Marchesani is a service-disabled U.S. Army veteran and owner of Markee Distributors. Markee supplies medical batteries, two-way hand held radio batteries, UPS back-up replacement batteries and other battery related items. Joe is a co-founder of the newly formed North Carolina Veterans Business Association, Inc —NCVetBiz.



2009 NC Women in Business Champion of the Year Sylvia Ray Fayetteville, NC

Ray is the Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Center of Fayetteville and a leading force in opening the first SBA Women's Business Center in the state of North Carolina.



2009 NC Small Business Journalist of the Year Mark Hibbs Morehead City, NC

Hibbs is the Business Editor and Assistant to the Editor of the Carteret County News-Times in Morehead City. Hibbs is also the SBA's Southeast Regional Small Business Journalist of the Year, where he competed with candidates from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.