

U.S. Small Business Administration

Portland District Office

Women's Business Ownership Report

There were several activities this past quarter that promoted women's business ownership. Sue Richardson, District Women's Business Ownership Representative and Sylvia Gercke, Director of Business Communications, have attended and spoke at several women's organizations. Some of these organizations were the Women's Council of Realtor's, Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtor's, Commercial Real Estate Women and the Federal Employed Women's Program. They also attended the 2008 Women of Achievement Award ceremony sponsored by the YWCA Clark County and Clark College. This annual event honored exceptional women and young women in Clark County. These meetings provided an opportunity to promote and educate the attendees about SBA, SCORE: Counselors to America's Small Business and the Women's Business Center programs and activities.

The SBA Women's Business Center, located at ONABEN (Oregon Native American Business Enterprise Network), will be moving to a new modern facility this Spring. The center provides services to both men and women clients through workshops, free business counseling, the use of computer software and an entrepreneurial library.

The Women's Business Ownership Program at the Portland District Office is gearing up for more outreach to women business owners in the coming months. For more information, contact Sue Richardson at sue.richardson@sba.gov.

Veterans Business Ownership Report

"Big Jim" Steiner, Veterans Business Development Officer [VBDO] for the Portland District Office {standing},



Jim Steiner (standing) assists Michael Thompson

was the SBA focal point at the Tri-State Women's Veterans Conference in Pendleton, Oregon serving women veterans and their spouses for Idaho, Oregon and Washington during 18-19 April 2008. With over 330 attendees, sponsors, and veteran support team members; the veterans were fully informed on their benefits, employment opportunities (including self-employment via SBA services), medical services, local Veteran Service Organization services and more. Each attendee was able to express their feelings and emotions on those who have served their country over the last 80 years...including how women have served in various ways over the last few years. The table also allowed a few male spouses of women vets to enroll their service connected disabled veteran owned small businesses to obtain federal, state and local government contracts, as you can see in the picture above.

For more information on the Veteran's Business Development program, contact Jim Steiner at james.steiner@sba.gov.