



PRESS RELEASE

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2009 Washington State Small Business Award Competition Begins SBA Seeks Nominations - deadline November 19th

Seattle, WA - The Seattle District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration is currently accepting nominations for its 2009 Washington State Small Business Awards Competition. During Small Business Week and throughout the year, we recognize the determination and ingenuity of America's workers and entrepreneurs who play a vital role in building a more prosperous future for our country.

"Next Spring during the Washington State Awards Gala, we recognize and celebrate some of the most successful and inspiring entrepreneurs in our district," says Nancy Porzio, Seattle District Director. "There are 26.8 million small businesses in America. Washington State is home to approximately 578,300 small businesses that are responsible for approximately 98.2 percent of all business activity. Small business is big in our state" she adds. Small businesses are major contributors to the strength of the American economy. Help us recognize outstanding leaders in the small business community and submit nominations.

Any individual or organization may submit nominations. A company, owner, or business advocate can also self-nominate. Award categories include:

- Small Business Person of the Year
- Entrepreneurial Success Award
- Small Business Exporter
- SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year
- Financial Services Champion of the Year
- Home-Based Business Champion of the Year
- Minority Small Business Champion of the Year
- Small Business Journalist of the Year
- Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year
- Women in Business Champion of the Year

[Being the Washington State Best Small Business Persons...] "It's a huge honor and reassurance that we're doing something right. But this has also been a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, to hear about what other small businesses are doing and what the future small business people are dreaming about today," says Rusty George and De Myers of Rusty George Creative, 2008 Small Business Persons of the Year Award recipient.

The winner of the Washington State Small Business Person of the Year, along with all Champion Award winners will be honored locally at the Washington State Awards Gala in Seattle April 2009 and continue on to compete for national honors.

The **deadline for all nominations is Wednesday, November 19, 2008**. For a copy of the nomination criteria, contact Carol Andersen, SBA, at 206-553-7315, carol.andersen@sba.gov. Downloadable nomination forms are also available electronically. Go to www.sba.gov/wa/seattle "under spotlight" SBW 2009.

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