



# NEWS RELEASE

## WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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### **Nora Lyon Named Minority**

### **Small Business Champion of the Year 2006**

**Cheyenne – Nora Lyon** works for the Department of Transportation. Nora has been selected as the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year 2006 by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award will be presented to Ms. Lyon on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the annual Casper Chamber Banquet which will start at 5:30pm at the Parkway Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Grand Ballrooms in Casper. Steve Despain, District Director, will be presenting Ms. Lyon with this award.

Each year since 1963, the President designates one week for recognition and celebration of the accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs. The award selection includes evaluation of growth in sales, profits, and employees; participation in community and charitable affairs; overcoming adversities; uniqueness and special attributes of the business; and the use of other minority firms as suppliers or subcontractors.

Nora's advocacy for small business was apparent from the beginning. She understands that 99% of Wyoming's businesses are "small" businesses. She knows first hand many folks know how to do the "work side" of their business, but do not know the "paperwork side" of doing business. She is constantly looking for assistance and resources for these small businesses to acquire these necessary skills. Those who have dealt with her over the years are familiar with her motto: "Don't be afraid to ask dumb questions. They are easier to handle than dumb mistakes."

She takes the charge of "public service" to heart. "We don't have problems. We have situations to which we need to find solutions." She feels this is an essential part of her job, helping those in the construction industry seeking solutions to their situations. She advocates for business owners to meet face to face, to build personal relationships. She notes, "Wyoming is still a state where you want to know the person you are dealing with, you want to have shook their hand and looked into the person's eyes.

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*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov/wy](http://www.sba.gov/wy).*

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