



# NEWS RELEASE

## WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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Contact: Sharon Nichols (307) 261-6508

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### **Robbi Welch Named Women in Business Champion of the Year**

**Powell** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Robbi Welch the Women in Business Champion of the Year 2006. This award will be presented to her on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, at the Powell Chamber Luncheon. Bob Auflick, Deputy District Director, will be presenting Ms. Welch with this award.

This award is given to an individual who has advanced women's business ownership. Evaluation criteria include efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women, legal, financial or managerial assistance, voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community and advocacy for the women-owned business community as a whole. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Ms. Welch is the Office Associate for the Region 2 Office of the Wyoming Small Business Development Center. In this capacity, she is the first point of contact for people in Northwest Wyoming who are interested in starting or expanding their own businesses. She is very knowledgeable about the business resources that are available in Wyoming, and is able to quickly connect clients with the assistance they need. She organizes and provides training to current prospective business owners in Park, Big Horn, Washakie, Fremont and Teton Counties, and works to build partnerships between the SBDC and other organizations, including the Wyoming Women's Business Center, the Wyoming Business Council, the U.S. Small Business Administration, local banks and Chambers of Commerce. However, the work she does to encourage women in Northwest Wyoming to start and expand their own businesses goes far beyond what is required by her job.

Ms. Welch also served as the chairperson responsible for organizing, coordinating and promoting this year's Women's Business Expo. This is the second time this event has been held in Park County. It offers business networking, informational workshops and resource tools to current and prospective business owners. It also gives women a chance to have their questions answered and hear powerful women speak about their own business experiences.

Ms. Welch is working on her undergraduate degree in business management with an emphasis on marketing. She plans to complete the Wyoming SBDC's Business Counselor Training the next time it is offered, in order to expand her capacity to work directly with clients. Ms. Welch has also been accepted into this year's Park County Leadership Institute, a program that encourages the personal and professional development of community leaders. She is very active in her community and participates in numerous other organizations and events.

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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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