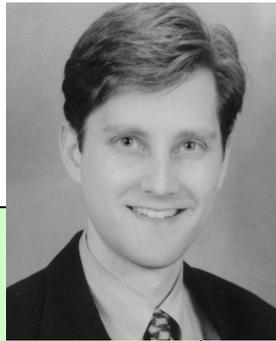


REGION IV BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED

SBA Jobs and Growth Tour Comes to Region IV



Alabama **Dr. Jason Koenig** **Over the Mountain Chiropractic**

Dr. Koenig and his staff are committed to doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of their patients and to exceed their expectations. They offer the finest in principled family chiropractic care. Over the Mountain Chiropractic operates in a 1,500 square foot office. The staff includes Dr. Koenig, two chiropractic assistants and a part time staff assistant.

They offer online patient scheduling, highly efficient modern office systems and “no wait” appointments.

On January 26, SBA’s 50th Anniversary Jobs and Growth Tour made a stop in Jacksonville, Florida. As part of the event, 9 regional small business owners were presented District Director Choice Awards in recognition of their business achievements and special contributions to their communities.

Only businesses who have received SBA assistance were eligible for an award. District Directors in the region selected their award recipient based on degree of success (as measured by sales), their community leadership and their commitment to community services.

Before presenting the award, Regional Administrator Nuby Fowler cited these business owners for turning their dreams into reality, for building successful businesses that are creating jobs and contributing to their communities.

These business owners represent the best of their respective states.



Kentucky **Randolph S. Hart** **Superior Battery**

Superior Battery was founded by Randolph Hart in 1983 to manufacture automotive, commercial, marine and lawn & garden batteries.

It quickly, yet quietly, created ripples in the battery industry by experiencing an exceptional growth rate. The proven growth is attributed primarily to meticulous and careful planning and building a high quality, dependable product.

Superior Battery is known for being customer service oriented.



Georgia **H. Jerome Jones** **J&B Construction and Services**

H. Jerome Jones founded his general construction company in 1989 in the small town of Grovetown, near Augusta, Georgia. J&B Construction and Services is a general construction company that has excelled in renovation and “retro-fit” of buildings for customers in both the public and private sector.

J & B Construction is a successful graduate of SBA’s 8(a) Business Development Program.



**Mississippi
William McElroy
McElroy, Ward, and Associates**

William McElroy, AIA, believes that architecture is the most significant form of artistic expression. By it and through it, humanity represents its aspirations, affirmations, and spirit. Fundamentally it should stimulate, inspire and even transform.

McElroy, Ward and Associates provide architectural project coordination with an emphasis on issue derived design solutions. Mr. McElroy and his firm are recognized as one of the most accomplished architectural design firms in Mississippi.



**North Carolina
Manuel Zapata
Zapata Engineering**

Manuel Zapata, President of ZAPATA ENGINEERING, has proven expertise in the field of engineering management with more than 25 years of successful experience applying his engineering and managerial skills.

Under his leadership, the firm has earned a reputation for providing innovative solutions to engineering challenges. He has assembled a successful group of professionals dedicated to providing the highest quality infrastructure, environmental, and facilities engineering solutions.



**North Florida
Susan L. Hartley
H & R Coffee**

For many wishful entrepreneurs it can take years to “wake up and smell the coffee.” But for Susan L. Hartley and her crew at H&R/Sunbelt Coffee, it is the exception. Today, Hartley holds the distinction of being the first female recipient of the United States Small Business Person of the Year for North Florida and presides over one of the state’s most recognized companies.

Ms. Hartley began working at H & R Coffee in 1989 as a route delivery driver. She purchased H & R Coffee in 1993 and SunBelt Coffee & Water Services in 1999.



**South Florida
Lance A. Cooper
Best Equipment & Repair**

Lance Cooper learned the finer points of operating and repairing equipment while growing up on his parent's 250 acre farm in West Virginia.

He now manages the daily operations of the businesses he founded in his garage in 1993. Ten years beyond those humble beginnings, the company is a regional leader in the equipment sales and repair industry.



**South Carolina
Diane E. Sumpter
ESA**

DESA, Inc. specializes in coordinating business development opportunities, managing operations and accounting functions and leading advocacy efforts for small, minority and women owned small businesses.

Since it began operations in 1986, DESA, Inc. has been recognized for their professional achievements by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, EPA and SBA. DESA has a team of 150 employees that share a vision of providing quality services that exceed clients' expectations.



**Tennessee
Patrick J. Stella
Fire Sprinkler, LLC**

From the birth of its operation 10 years ago, Fire Sprinkler, LLC has grown from four employees to 45, from serving Nashville to serving all of Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, and from impressive first-year billings of \$1.5 million to revenues of over \$6 million.

Because Stella puts people first, his company has a remarkably low turnover rate of employees and a growing base of solid relationships with clients. His company's very mission is dedicated to protecting lives and property. When Stella started his company, he felt a sincere calling to make a difference in the lives of business owners by providing peace of mind for their property, and more importantly, for the people who work there.