



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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Contact: Cecelia Taylor (202) 401-3059
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

National Small Business Week 2009 Kick-off and Events Schedule

SBA Administrator Karen Mills to Deliver Opening Remarks on Monday May 18

WASHINGTON – Top entrepreneurs from around the country will come together to be recognized for their accomplishments during the National Small Business Week celebration, May 17-23, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The National Small Business Person of the Year will also be named at a dinner on May 19.

The three-day event at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Conference Center in the nation's capital will highlight business owners from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico, whose business achievements have contributed much to the economic well-being of their families, their employees, their communities and the nation. Awards also will be presented for notable achievements in disaster recovery, government procurement, small business advocacy, and to top-performing SBA resource and lending partners.

Small Business Week will also feature a series of forums that are open to the public and developed to help entrepreneurs with real-world issues that impact their business, including innovation and technology, dealing with the challenges of a tough economy, and maximizing social media. There will be a Town Hall session to discuss business strategies in a down economy.

Events during Small Business Week can be viewed virtually through SBA's free, live webcasting accessible online at <http://www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com/>.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Note to Press: Seating is limited at all events and the schedule is subject to change
Visit www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com for the latest schedule.)

Sunday, May 17

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Registration Open

Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Opening Networking Reception

Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Hillwood Foyer

Sponsor: Ford Motor Company

Monday, May 18

- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Cyber Café Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Sackler Room
Sponsor: Trend Micro
** Free Wi-Fi will be provided to all attendees.*
- 8:15 am – 9:45 am **Breakfast Honoring the Entrepreneurial Development and Lender Award Winners**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Grand Ballroom
Sponsor: Sage
- 10:00 am – 10:45 am **Keynote Address by SBA Administrator Karen G. Mills**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom
- 11:00 am – 12:15 pm **Financial Forum: Rebuilding Our Economy**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsor: Visa
- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm **Champion Award Winners Luncheon**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Grand Ballroom
Sponsor: Sam's Club
- 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm **Town Hall Meeting: Successful Business Strategies in a Tough Economy**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsor: IBM
- 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm **Innovation Forum: Technology – Our Competitive Edge**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsor: HP
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Evening Reception**
U.S. Department of State
Sponsor: Administaff
** Invitation Only. Not open to Forum Attendees.*

Tuesday, May 19

- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Cyber Café Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Sackler Room
Sponsor: Trend Micro
** Free Wi-Fi will be provided to all attendees.*

