



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: May 10, 2004
Release Number: 04-14

Contact: Melende Ward (559) 487-5791, X143
Internet Address: www.sba.gov

KERN COUNTY BUSINESSES HONORED DURING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK MAY 2004

Bakersfield, CA - Each year, during National Small Business Week, the SBA recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to our Nation. Small Business Week will be celebrated nationally May 17 – 21, 2004.

This year two Bakersfield small business entrepreneurs will be honored during a special Small Business Week Awards luncheon hosted by the Weill Institute Small Business Development Center of Bakersfield on May 20th.

During the luncheon ceremony Keith and Nadine Decker of Jerry and Keith's, Inc. will be presented the Central California SBA Family-Owned Small Business Person of the Year Award. Ms. Dee Slade, of Slade Enterprises, will be honored with her selection as the Central California Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year during the ceremony.

Carlos G. Mendoza, District Director of the Fresno SBA Office said, "The Decker Family and Dee Slade are both excellent examples of small business entrepreneurs who have worked very hard to accomplish the American dream of owning their own small business. The SBA is very pleased to be honoring them with these prestigious awards."



Jerry and Keith's, Inc., a truck, trailer repairs and parts sales business has been owned and operated for over 35 years by the Decker family. The company employs 30 with several of the employees being family members. Jerry and Keith's reputation in customer service and overall knowledge of truck, trailer repairs and parts sales are known throughout the State of California.

The firm was nominated for the award by Mid State Certified Development Corporation. Keith Brice, President of Mid State CDC said, "Mid State nominated this company because they have exemplified the meaning of American dreams and values. These folks came to California with limited resources but with a positive outlook and strong beliefs. As a result they have created a very successful business that has provided valuable jobs to our community."

Upon hearing of their selection Nadine Decker said, "We are honored to be the recipients of this award, and so blessed to have the support of our valued employees and our many loyal repeat customers."

Dee Slade of Slade Enterprises is known throughout the Kern County area for her tireless efforts in mentoring minority entrepreneurs in their business endeavors. Slade is involved in many local organizations including the African American Network and Adobe Krow Archives. Through Slade Enterprises, Dee provides administrative support to many non-profit and local businesses

Slade was nominated for the award by the Weill Institute Small Business Development Center of Bakersfield. Center Director, Jeffrey Johnson said, "Ms. Slade has mentored many new startup businesses and guided them to success in the past ten years. She has sponsored several organizations to help network minority entrepreneurs including The African American Network."

"Working with the community is rewarding," said Ms. Slade.

For further information regarding the Small Business Week Award Luncheon Ceremony please contact the Weill Institute Small Business Development Center at (661) 395-4126.

Dee Slade
Slade Enterprises
P. O. Box 9223
Bakersfield, CA 93389
(661) 665-9001

Jeff Johnson, Director
Weill Institute Small Business Development Center
2100 Chester Avenue, #9
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 395-4126

Keith and Nadine Decker, Owners
Jerry and Keith's, Inc
4571 Standard Road
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 327-4872

Keith Brice, President
Mid State Development Corporation
5555 California Avenue, # 105
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 322-4241

Melende Ward, Public Info Officer
U. S. Small Business Administration
2719 N. Air Fresno Drive, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 487-5791, ext 143