



**U.S Small Business Administration Recognizes
The Orange County Small Business Development Center
*Small Business Development Center of Excellence***



Santa Ana, CA – The Orange County Small Business Development Center (OCSBDC), under the direction of Leila Mozaffari, has been named winner of the Small Business Development Center of Excellence Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Santa Ana District Office. The district serves the counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino. This selection was announced by District Director J. Adalberto Quijada, who stated, “The Orange County SBDC, under the leadership of Leila Mozaffari, is the resource that business owners can count on to ensure that their entrepreneurial dreams become a reality.” The SBDC was nominated by Dr. Eddie Hernandez, Chancellor of Rancho Santiago Community College District.

“The Orange County Small Business Development Center is recognized by great impressions of leadership and performance,” said Hernandez. “It has built successful partnerships throughout our service area, created innovative programs, excelled in meeting its goals, and changed the lives of thousands of entrepreneurs all through the efforts of a predominantly part-time staff.”

Considered one of the best-managed centers in California, the Orange County SBDC provides local small businesses a one-stop source for technical assistance, access to financing, business development, international business resources, education and training. Its programs are offered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese and serve a very diverse clientele; 53% of the Center’s clients are women, 63% are minorities and 8% are veterans.

Under the leadership vision of Leila Mozaffari, Orange County SBDC expanded to include locations in the Southern and Western metropolitan areas, totaling four small business assistance centers in Orange County. Partnerships were established and grants awarded to Orange County SBDC for new programs, such as the California Construction Contracting Program, the Youth Entrepreneurship Program, the Wells Fargo

Vietnamese Technical Assistance Program and the Green Business Consulting Program. With the strengths and expertise of the staff and Assistant Director Ruth Cossio-Muniz, the Orange County SBDC has also increased traffic to the Center by upgrading its training programs, enhancing the functionality of its website, expanding the offerings via online training, and creating a popular electronic newsletter distributed to a database of over 3,000 small business owners.

In 2008, amid a slumping economy, the Orange County SBDC, with its small yet dedicated staff of four full-time and seven part-time employees, was still able to surpass its goals. The Center encouraged and assisted over 3,700 small business owners and entrepreneurs to start and grow their own businesses, and, as a result, generated an impressive economic impact of over \$20 million. Services provided by Orange County SBDC resulted in the creation of 25 new businesses and 219 new jobs, 88 additional jobs saved and an increase in sales of almost \$14 million and \$7 million of capital infusion for the companies they counseled.

Leila is quick to recognize the contributions of her staff to the success of the SBDC. She personally takes time to hire, train, and supervise counselors. She motivates and respects her staff and regularly acknowledges their contributions to the SBDC and the small businesses that they serve. Orange County SBDC has also received outstanding support from the host organization, the Rancho Santiago Community College District Foundation.

Orange County Small Business Development Center along with Leila Mozaffari, Ruth Cossio-Muniz, and other small business owners and champions will be honored at the 46th Annual Small Business Week Awards event on June 4th hosted by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in the Yuhaviatam Room at 777 San Manuel Blvd., Highland, CA.

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