



The Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration cordially invites you to celebrate the 45th Annual Small Business Week Awards during a luncheon September 25th at the Hilton Anaheim!

Every year, there are many reasons to celebrate; 2008 is no exception. All the entrepreneurs and champions that submitted nomination packages and were reviewed by an independent panel of judges were deserving of recognition. District winners were selected and competed for Regional & National honors. All told, the Santa Ana District has 12 honorees— 6 District winners, 2 Regional winners, one National winner, 2 Small Business Person of the Year finalists, and the California Small Business Person of the Year!

This year, the SBA is proud to have the Rancho Santiago Community College District Foundation as a partner. Their support emphasizes the fact that the Small Business Week Awards are a community-wide event, since the honorees live, work and play in the communities that make up the Santa Ana District.



What are we celebrating?

Award winners

Some quick background: The SBA requests nominations for entrepreneurs and champions in various categories. These nominations are then reviewed by an independent panel of judges and district winners are selected. These winners go on to compete at the Regional level. This level includes offices in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam. Regional winners go on to compete for National honors in Washington D.C. at National Small Business Week festivities. The State of California is unique because there are six district offices in the state and the Small Business Person of the Year must be selected as the District winner **and** the State winner before representing California in D.C. This year's winners are:

Small Business Person of the Year—California: Thanh Duc Nguyen, Ph.D., Owner, Knowlwood Enterprises, Inc.

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year—National Winner: Kimberly Davidson, Owner, MBD Marketing, Inc.

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year—Regional Winner: Robert Yaap, CEO, Great Pacific Securities, Inc.

Family-Owned Small Business Person of the Year—Regional Winner: Garrett Pack, Chairman, Mark Company

Young Entrepreneur of the Year—District Winner: Tim Gormick, Owner, Discount Water Sports

Financial Services Champion of the Year—District Winner: Nancy Russell, VP, Comerica Bank—SBA Division

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year—District Winner: Kim Nguyen Zastrow, Owner, VITESSE Recruiting & Staffing

Small Business Journalist of the Year—District Winner: Lilian de la Torre-Jimenez, VP, Jimenez Communications, Inc.

Women in Business Champion of the Year—District Winner: Camille Jayne, Founder, Matters at Hand

District Director's Award: Fred Zandpour, Ph.D., Professor of Communications & Associate Dean, California State University Fullerton

20 years as a district office

2008 marks the 20th year of outstanding service by the Santa Ana District Office. Prior to 1988, what is now known as the Santa Ana District Office was actually a satellite office of the Los Angeles District Office. With the tremendous growth in population, both in terms of people and businesses, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties warranted their own district office. During the past 20 years, the Santa Ana District Office has guaranteed billions of dollars in loans, helped thousands of small businesses compete for Federal Government contracts and counseled & trained innumerable entrepreneurs through its network of resource partners: SCORE, Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers. We will continue to do these things and exceed expectations and will always work to meet the needs of small business and serve as their senior voice.

45 years of celebrating Small Business Week

Since 1963, every President has declared National Small Business Week to formally recognize the importance of America's small business community. SBA district offices throughout the nation, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico host and participate in a variety of events and functions. The community as a whole is encouraged to salute and recognize the crucial role small businesses play in strengthening and supporting the economy. Regional winners and state Small Business Person of the Year winners compete in Washington D.C. for national awards. There are many forums and festivities, including the opportunity to meet the President at the White House. There is a tremendous amount of prestige and publicity that is earned by being selected as a district, regional, or national winner.

55 years as a federal agency and the senior voice of small business

Since its founding on July 30, 1953, the U.S. Small Business Administration has delivered about 20 million loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses. The SBA was officially established in 1953, but its philosophy and mission began to take shape years earlier in a number of predecessor agencies, largely as a response to the pressures of the Great Depression and World War II. In the Small Business Act of July 30, 1953, Congress created the Small Business Administration, whose function was to "aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of small business concerns." The charter also stipulated that the SBA would ensure small businesses a "fair proportion" of government contracts. Last year alone, the SBA backed more than \$12.3 billion in loans to small businesses. More than \$1 billion was made available for disaster loans and more than \$40 billion in federal contracts were secured by small businesses with SBA's help. There are those who argue that big businesses, profiting from "economies of scale," can produce far more efficiently than small businesses. But small business is where the innovations take place. Swifter, more flexible and often more daring than big businesses, small firms produce the items that line the shelves of America's museums, shops and homes. They keep intact the heritage of ingenuity and enterprise and they help keep the "American Dream" within the reach of millions of Americans. Every step of the way, SBA is there to help them.

In closing

We certainly look forward to seeing you at the 45th Annual Small Business Week Awards. Contact Patty Holohan at 909.794.3027 or PSHoloha@aol.com for more information.