

News Release

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SBA Announces Awards for Small Business Person of the Year and SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

HARTFORD, Conn.- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today announced the recipients of these prestigious awards for 2006. This recognition is made in conjunction with National Small Business Week 2006, which is held annually and celebrated this year in Washington D.C., April 12-13 where more than 100 business owners from around the country will be honored. All award recipients have worked hard and faced many challenges to achieve success.

“These awards are the result of a highly competitive process and we are honored to recognize their outstanding accomplishments,” says Connecticut Office District Director Bernard M. Sweeney. “It is truly a pleasure to recognize these individuals.” This year’s recipients are:

Lynne Abrams-Cornwall and **David Cornwall** own and operate the Recreation Showroom in Orange, Connecticut and have been selected as the **SBA 2006 Small Business Persons of the Year** in Connecticut. The Recreation Showroom is a second-generation business established in 1978 by Lynne’s parents, Muriel and Sidney Abrams, and managed and developed by Lynne and her husband David since 1993.

What began as a rented 2,500 square-foot modest Mom-and-Pop business twenty-seven years ago is now a major player in the supply of home recreation equipment and supplies in Connecticut. Under the guiding force of Lynne and David, the company made a major advance to a 9000 square-foot store on Race Brook Road in Orange, and since that time, they have not looked back. In 1997, they further expanded into the Litchfield and upper Fairfield County markets when they opened a second location 30 miles away in Brookfield, CT. Their growth continued with a third location in Avon CT, in 2002 providing them entry into the suburban Hartford market as well. In 2005, they built a new headquarters facility near their original location in Orange, CT. The 20,000 square-foot headquarters facility located on 6 acres now serves as the flagship store as well as a central warehouse serving the other retail outlets. Building upon the original foundation and vision of their parents, Lynne and David have seen the business grow from their modest beginning to employ eighteen today. These days Recreation Showroom is known for maintaining a broad selection of high quality products and friendly customer centered service.

Connecticut’s **2006 SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year** honors go to **Stanley Gryskiewicz**, owner of PC Development Group LLC, a computer retail store located in Windsor, CT. This award is given to a small business owner under the age of thirty who serves as the majority owner and operator of a business.

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Stan formed the company in 2002 to provide computer users an alternative to his competitors, and he and his staff of five have found a niche market that values their efforts. PC Development is known for its professionalism, promptness, quality of work and a positive “whatever it takes to find a solution attitude,” all a welcome change for its customers that separates PC Development from its peers. PC Development upgrades, repairs and custom-builds computer systems for home and business customers on and off site. Stan’s and his team’s customer-first attitude is one of the many reasons why PC Development has grown, and become well established not only beyond Windsor into the Greater Hartford area.

Connecticut’s award recipients will be honored at an upcoming ceremony in the near future. If you would like information on this celebration, or next year’s nominations contact Greta Johansson at (860) 240-4672 or Greta.Johansson@sba.gov.

Small businesses have been essential to sustaining our nation’s and our state’s economic health. Entrepreneurs and advocates play a vital role in the ongoing business development efforts, and their accomplishments are worthy of recognition. The nomination process begins in September. For information on 2007 nominations contact Greta Johansson at (860) 240-4672.

A complete list of the 2006 Small Business Week award recipients is attached.