



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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TOP SBA LENDERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 HONORED

Lender Awards Presented by the SBA North Florida District Office in Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Fla.- The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Florida District Office will recognize 16 Top SBA Lenders from across North Florida (43 county area) on Thursday, May 1st at the 16th Annual Small Business Week Celebration and Lender Awards Luncheon hosted by the Small Business Development Center at UNF at the University Center, 12000 Alumni Dr., Jacksonville, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The Lender Award recipients will be recognized for their achievements in SBA lending for Fiscal Year 2007. "We are very pleased to celebrate the tremendous achievements of these top SBA lenders. We hope to see a continued increase of SBA lending through this fiscal year," says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, District Director.

The following lenders will receive awards at the May 1st event in Jacksonville:

U. S. Small Business Administration
North Florida District Office
FY 2007 Award Winners

SBA Lenders – Highest Number of 7(a) Loans

Bank of America
Innovative Bank
Platinum Winners- Over 200 Loans

Banco Popular North America
Capital One
Gold Winners- 100 to 200 Loans

Compass Bank
Washington Mutual Bank
CIT Small Business Lending
Silver Winners-50-100 Loans

SunTrust Bank
Branch Banking & Trust (BB&T)
First Coast Community Bank
Wachovia SBA Lending, Inc.
Bronze Winners-50 to 100 Loans

Community Express Lenders

Borrego Springs Bank
Innovative Bank
Superior Financial Group

Lender With the Highest Number of Loans to Veterans

Bank of America- 35 Loans

Certified Development Companies

Highest Number of Loans - **Florida First Capital Finance Corporation**

Top 1st Mortgage Lender – **SunTrust Bank**

Top Lenders and five Small Business Week Award Winners will be honored at this event. The keynote speaker is Bo Burlingham, Author of *Small Giants* and Editor-at-large of Inc. Magazine. For more information and to register for the Small Business Week Celebration and Lender Awards luncheon on Thursday, May 1st, please visit www.sbdc.unf.edu.

For more information on the lender awards or on SBA's Programs and Services in North Florida, please contact the SBA North Florida District Office's Lola Kress Naylor at (904) 443-1933 or lola.naylor@sba.gov.

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