



## *Nebraska's 2009 Small Business Week Winners*

### **Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Nebraska:**



**James and Connie Hellbusch  
Duo Lift Manufacturing Company, Inc.  
Columbus, Nebraska**

Duo Lift Manufacturing Company, Inc. is a family owned manufacturer of agricultural equipment primarily for the fertilizer industry as well as commercial and industrial trailers. The company manufactures one of the largest lines of fertilizer trailers and running gears in the country, and they also design and manufacture custom designed equipment for customers. They have distributors throughout the United States and Canada and currently employ 75 people.

Duo Lift Manufacturing was nominated by Loren Kucera, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center in Wayne, Nebraska. The business has received government contracting technical assistance from the NBDC.

## **Small Business Person of the Year for the First Congressional District:**

### **Hague Quality Water – Jeff White, President Lincoln, Nebraska**

Hague Quality Water installs water treatment and purification systems for the Lincoln and Omaha areas, along with any repair services needed. Jeff White started this business in 2001 and has seen a growth in the number of employees as well as revenues. He has recently added a new Healthy Living Division to diversify his product lines.

The company has received assistance from the Nebraska Business Development Center as well as the Procurement Technical Assistance Program. The business was nominated by Marisol Rodriguez, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center in Lincoln.

## **Small Business Person of the Year for the Third Congressional District:**

### **Andrea Lee Rising d/b/a The Bean Broker Chadron, Nebraska**

The Bean Broker, which was started in February of 2008, offers a unique coffee drinking experience featuring specialty coffee beans. The business provides free wireless internet and displays work from local and college artists with the availability to host small musical events for local musicians.

The business was nominated by James Koehn, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center in Chadron, Nebraska.

### ***Evaluation Criteria for Small Business Person of the Year:***

*Staying Power*

*Growth in number of employees*

*Increase in sales and/or unit volume*

*Current and past financial performance*

*Innovativeness of product or service offered*

*Response to adversity*

*Contributions to community-oriented projects*

## **Women in Business Champion of the Year:**

**Kimberly Seger**  
**Vice President of Commercial Banking**  
**First National Bank of North Platte**  
**North Platte, Nebraska**

Kimberly has held various positions while working at First National Bank of North Platte for the last 25 years, and in each position, she has helped women become more self-sufficient. She has helped women start their financial life; helped them develop their careers; and has helped women business owners get the training and financing they need for their business. Kimberly is a member of many organizations and has held leadership positions, which have brought her opportunities to increase avenues for women in business.

Kimberly Seger was nominated by Jason Tuller, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center in North Platte.

### ***Evaluation Criteria for Women in Business Champion of the Year:***

- *Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses.*
- *Efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women.*
- *Legal, financial or managerial assistance for women owned businesses.*
- *Voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women businesses in their community.*
- *Advocacy of the women-owned business community.*
- *Effectiveness in improving the environment for businesses owned by women.*

## **Financial Services Champion of the Year for the State of Nebraska:**

**Jerry Terwilliger, Panhandle Business Specialist**  
**Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP)**  
**Morrill, Nebraska**

Jerry has been employed by REAP for the past 8 years. As a business specialist, he provides one-on-one technical assistance consulting on cash flow and budgeting, loan packaging and business plan preparation. He started his career with First National Bank in Morrill, rising to the level of President and CEO. He left banking in 1993 to become an entrepreneur – owner and manager of a restaurant in Morrill. Jerry is involved in many community activities and economic development organizations.

Jerry was nominated by Ingrid Battershell, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center in Scottsbluff. Ingrid has worked with Jerry as a business specialist for REAP since 2000 and finds him to be very professional, knowledgeable and truly caring about the clients.

## **Financial Services Champion of the Year for the Second Congressional District**

**Randal Bauer, Business Banking Officer  
First National Bank  
Omaha, Nebraska**

Randal Bauer is described as the premier SBA small business-banking advocate in Omaha, Nebraska. Randy is in his second decade providing SBA loans and other small business lending for small firms. He works closely with existing businesses and start-up businesses to insure business plans are completed in an accurate manner with financial projections. He accomplishes this through his close interaction with the Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) and the Nebraska Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) in Lincoln for the 504 program. Randy has been a volunteer speaker at many organizations and has been involved with all areas of economic development and banking to insure the continued growth of the small business community.

Randy Bauer was nominated by Cliff Mosteller, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

### ***Evaluation Criteria for Financial Services Champion of the Year:***

- *Outside of regular business duties, the amount and quality of assistance given small businesses to obtain financing.*
- *Advocacy for changes in the financial services industry to assist small companies.*
- *Encouragement of the flow of investment capital to small ventures.*
- *Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small firms.*
- *Other significant contributions through the advocacy efforts of the financial services or accounting industries to advance small business interests.*