



NEWS RELEASE

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MARI CARMEN CINTRON, FOUNDER OF HAVERHILL-BASED LATINO RESOURCES NETWORK WINS SBA AWARD

BOSTON – Mari Carmen Cintron, founder and president of Haverhill-based Latino Resources Network, has been named the 2004 Massachusetts Minority Small Business Advocate by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) according to an announcement made by Mark S. Hayward, Acting Massachusetts SBA District Director.

The Minority Small Business Advocate Award is presented annually to an individual who has fulfilled a commitment to support minority entrepreneurship. Specific nomination criteria include: (1) Volunteer efforts to advance minority small business interests; (2) Demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community as a whole; (3) Voluntary provision of professional services to the minority small business community; and (4) Demonstrated accomplishments in advising minority small business groups of opportunities within the overall business community. Patricia Royal, Branch Manager, Fleet Bank in Haverhill, nominated Mari Carmen for this award.

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The SBA Champion awards honor the best small business has to offer, and Mari Carmen Cintron is an outstanding choice,” said SBA Regional Administrator Jeffrey Butland. “This is an outstanding testimonial, not only to her accomplishments, but to her commitment and dedication to small business success and community service as well. I join my SBA colleagues in congratulating Mari Carmen on this significant achievement.”

Mari Carmen Cintron founded Latino Resource Network in 1999. LRN is a non-profit organization, established to achieve specific goals including improving Latino professional opportunities, economic development, and the development of leadership in the Haverhill community. One example of LRN’s mission is the partnership the organization formed with the city of Haverhill and a financial institution to provide a ten-week workshop to encourage small business development in the Latino community. Mari Carmen, a Licensed Social Worker, is also the Director of the Minority Affairs Office for the city of Haverhill, conducts her own television talk show called “Perspectiva Latina” and writes a bimonthly column in the *Haverhill Gazette*.

“Mari Carmen Cintron’s unwavering commitment to the Latino community is impressive,” said SBA Acting Director Hayward. “Her newspaper column, television show and many initiatives have raised the visibility of Latinos in Lawrence and Haverhill. Her passion for what she does is obvious by the many successes she has achieved.”

Cintron will be honored at an awards breakfast at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston on June 10, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. The Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, Larry O’Toole, president of Somerville-based Gentle Giant Moving Company, Inc., will also be honored along with eight other small businesses and champions from throughout the state. The event is open to the public and those interested in attending should contact Christine Carter at SBA at 617-565-5560.

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