



NEWS RELEASE

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The Best Kept Secret Named Small Business Exporter of the Year 2003

Clearmont – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named The Best Kept Secret, owner Julie Weber Small Business Exporter of the Year 2003. Additionally, The Best Kept Secret has earned the honor of being the Regional Small Business Export of the Year after competing against small business exporters from Colorado, Idaho, Utah, South Dakota and Montana.

This award is given to an individual who owns and operates a small business engaged in exporting. Evaluation criteria includes increased sales, profits and/or growth of employment because of exporting; creative overseas marketing strategies; effective solutions to export-related problems; demonstrated encouragement of other small businesses to export; volunteer assistance to other small businesses entering the export market and cooperation with other businesses in the creation of export trading companies and/or introduction of unique trading relationships, products or services. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Julie Weber was born in Buffalo and moved to Clearmont when she was fourteen. Her mother purchased the Pay and Save Grocery and Julie helped her mom in the store. Julie moved out of state but returned to Clearmont in 1994 and purchased the store from her mother. In 1996 she purchased a quilting machine so she and her mother could quilt their own quilts. The volume of quilts quickly became overwhelming and in 1998, she decided to try selling on the Internet. With assistance from the Small Business Development, she designed her own catalog and web page. In 1999, she entered the world of Internet entrepreneurs. She now fills orders from coast to coast and worldwide. Twenty-five percent of all sales are outside the United States.

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