



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Announces Columbus District 2012 Small Business Champions of the Year And Special Category Winners

Every year since 1963, the President has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Thomas K. Mueller, District Director of the Small Business Administration Columbus District Office announced today that 9 small business owners/advocates have been named and will be recognized for their achievements.

The Columbus District Office 2012 small business champions and special category winners are:

Small Business Person of the Year – Lonnie Grayson –President, Environmental and Safety Solutions Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio- offers a full range of environmental, health, and safety compliance services as well as technical staffing to its clients. The company brings experience and focus to identify and address EPA and OSHA Compliance issues such as management of workplace safety, air and wastewater permitting, waste management and minimization. They provide advanced technical safety guidance for concerns such as machine guarding, control of hazardous energy sources and confined spaces.

SBA Financial Services Champion – James R. Klein – CEO, Reynoldsburg, Ohio Finance Fund– As chief executive officer James Klein has used \$195.5 million in investment to leverage \$1 billion in affordable housing, small business and community projects affecting the lives of 125,000 Ohioans in distressed communities since 1987.

SBA Veteran Small Business Champion – Robert C. Leibecke, CEO, E.C. Ruffolo Inc., Miamisburg, Ohio - a modern state of the art service company that is dedicated to the quick and efficient accomplishment of direct mail and fulfillment campaigns.

SBA Women in Business Champion of the Year - Caroline Z. Worley, founder of Worley Law, LLC, Westerville, Ohio, an attorney committed to helping entrepreneurs and small business owners fulfill their own dreams of business ownership. She has a passion for assisting women business owners and donates her time to advocate and support those entrepreneurs. Caroline also is the founder of [Ohio Women in Business, LLC](#) an interactive online resource for women in business. Caroline Z. Worley was recently named a top 20 finalist for the 2012 Jefferson Awards, which recognizes individuals in the community who have demonstrated outstanding public service.

SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Douglas M. Morrison, President & Amanda K. Jones, VP., Boardwalk 2022, Inc. Lewis Center, Ohio **REGION V WINNER** - as owners of the following eleven restaurants in the Central Ohio area Subway, Cinnabon, Flip Spot, and Dunkin Donuts and they currently employ 125 people.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award – Pamela Landford, , Director, Small Business Development Center at Marietta, Marietta, OH – through its programs and services the Center provides entrepreneurial development assistance and business consulting to start-up and existing business owners and services are offered at “no cost” to the client.

SBA Minority Small Champion of the Year – Emmet Apolinario, President, International Resource Group, Inc. dba Sunbelt International, Columbus, Ohio – provides mergers and acquisitions advisory services to privately-held small businesses and is involved in several initiatives to promote and educate minority-owned businesses. The company advises small business owners in the development of exit and succession planning strategies through a highly confidential framework.

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year – Jo Groh, President, August Groh & Sons, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio – serving the Greater Cincinnati business community since 1926, providing top quality commercial painting, specialty finishes, and janitorial services and is now in its third generation of family ownership.

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year – Amanda S. Cox, Owner, Nothing But Chocolate., and Cambridge, Ohio - As Chief Chocolatier Nothing But Chocolate produces more than 100,000 pretzel rods and 50,000 buckeyes each year along with additional chocolate products.

The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contribution to the small business community.

Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov

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