



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: March 12, 2018
Release Number: 18-16

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SBA Administrator Honors Nation’s Top Small Businesses

Winners to be formally recognized in Washington, D.C. on April 29-30

WASHINGTON – Administrator Linda McMahon, the head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced today this year’s Small Business Person of the Year winners from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. All of the winners have been invited to attend ceremonies in Washington, D.C on April 29-30 where they will be honored with their individual award along with special recognition of the three runners-up and the naming of the *2018 National Small Business Person of the Year*.

“It is my honor and distinct pleasure to announce the 52 winners from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico,” McMahon said. “These small business owners define entrepreneurial spirit and best represent the 30 million small businesses that are the backbone and economic engine of our economy. I look forward to welcoming the winners to Washington next month when they are officially honored for their achievements.”

Each year since 1963, the president has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. National Small Business Week is set as the first week in May, and this year the dates are April 29 – May 5.

After the national awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. McMahon will continue [National Small Business Week](#) with a bus road show starting in Jacksonville, Fla. and then continue on to South Carolina and North Carolina. Each stop she will meet with small business owners, visit small businesses and hold roundtable discussions. Additionally, virtual events, recognition and educational opportunities throughout SBA’s 10 Regions and 68 Districts will be held throughout the week.

2018 STATE SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR

ALABAMA

Charles W. Underwood II
Owner
C & R Movers, LLC
Montgomery, AL 36110

ALASKA

Lori Brewer

President

Caffe D'arte Alaska/Alaska Coffee & Restaurant Equipment
Anchorage, AK 99518

ARIZONA

Dirck Theodor Schou

President and CEO

Catalina China, Inc.

Db a HF Coors

Tucson, AZ 85713

ARKANSAS

Joe Saumweber

Co-Founder & CEO

Michael Paladino

Co-Founder & CTO

RevUnit LLC

Bentonville, AR

CALIFORNIA

Matthew Cohen

Chief Executive Officer

Off the Grid Services, LLC

San Francisco, CA 94123

COLORADO

Margot Langstaff

Managing Partner – Marjority Owner

Elisa Jane Hamill

Managing Partner – Co-Owner

LifeHealth

Littleton, CO 80123

CONNECTICUT

April Marie Lukasik

President

Bright & Early Children's Learning Centers

North Branford, CT 06471

DELAWARE

Kim Adams

President and CEO

Mountain Consulting, Inc.

Dover, DE 19904

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Denita R. Conway

President and CEO

PROVEN Management, LLC

Washington, DC 20001

FLORIDA

Michael Zaffaroni

Owner

Fernandina Mulch & Stone, LLC

Dbas Liberty Landscape Supply

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

GEORGIA

Peter Andrews Dugas

President and CFO

Tonya Barr Dugas

CEO

Dusoul Company

Dbas Technical Services Audio Visual

Athens, GA 30606

HAWAII

Reginald G. Perry

Managing Manager

Barbers Point Aviation Services, LLC

Kapolei, HI 96707

IDAHO

September Myres

President and CEO

Sundance Consulting, Inc.

Pocatello, ID 83201

ILLINOIS

Rebecca Fyffe

President

ABC Humane Wildlife Control & Prevention, Inc.

Dbas Landmark Pest Mgmt

Schaumburg, IL 60173

INDIANA

Michele Durante Meyer
President and CEO
Creative Solutions Consulting, Inc.
(CSCI Consulting)
Indianapolis, IN 46216

IOWA

Bob Simpson, President
Big River Packaging
Clinton, IA 52732

KANSAS

David Sasson
President & CEO
OverstockArt.com
Wichita, KS 67211

KENTUCKY

Lesme Romero
Owner/Manager
EZ Foods, Inc.
Dbas Lexington Pasta/Lexington Pasta Garage
Lexington, KY 40505

LOUISIANA

Keith Porta
Managing Member
APC Construction, LLC
Harvey, LA 70058

MAINE

Beth Shissler
President and COO
Donald Oakes
CEO
Sea Bags, LLC
Portland, ME 04101

MARYLAND

Tamara Michele Beideman
Owner
Elizabeth Jane, Inc.
Dbas Sweet Elizabeth Jane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Melville

Gary Melville

Owners

Melville Candy Corporation

Randolph, MA 02368

MICHIGAN

Albert F. Zehnder

CEO

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

MINNESOTA

Brenda Kay Nolby

CEO

Jam Hops Gymnastics Factory, Inc.

Ham Lake, MN 55304

MISSISSIPPI

Barbara Alamsha

Tim Alamsha

Owners/Operators

Ear Candie Productions, LLC

Dbas Rock U 2

Ocean Springs, MS 39564

MISSOURI

Melissa Ann Smith, DDS

Managing Dentist and Owner/Operator

Washington Smiles Complete Health Dentistry

Washington, MO 63090

MONTANA

Charles "Skip" King

Owner

King's Ace Hardware

Billings, MT 59102

NEBRASKA

Mark Anthony Santo

Mark VII Enterprises, Inc.

Omaha, NE 68131

NEVADA

Medhi Zarhloul

Founder & CEO
Crazy Pita Rotisserie & Grill
Henderson, NV 89052

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mark Wentworth

President & CEO
Green View Technologies, Inc.
Rollinsford, NH 03869

NEW JERSEY

Richard C. Spanier

President and CEO
Rudolph Research Analytical
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

NEW MEXICO

Jasper Dutch Riddle

President/Winemaker
Noisy Water Winery & Cellars
Ruidoso, NM 88345

NEW YORK

Snehal (Raj) Dayanidham Thakkar

Founder & CEO
Charter School Business Management, Inc.
DbA FOREsight Financial Services for Good
New York, NY 10001

NORTH CAROLINA

Andrew Michael Matroni

Founder and CEO
Innovation Catering, Inc.
DbA Queen City Catering
Charlotte, NC 28208

NORTH DAKOTA

Kari Marie Weigel

Executive Director/Owner
Sylvan Learning Center
Bismarck, ND 58503

OHIO

David S. Nolan

President/CEO

Quality Control Services LLC

Cleveland, OH 44114

OKLAHOMA

Tracy Lynn Evans

Owner and CEO

Woodward Wellness Center, LLC

Woodward, OK 73801

OREGON

Matt Higgins

Owner

Coava Coffee Roasters, Inc.

Portland, OR 97214

PENNSYLVANIA

William A. Campbell

CEO

Water Treatment Services

Dbas First Defense Operations Management

Monroeville, PA 15146

PUERTO RICO

Alex Gomez

President

Tijuana's Bar & Grill Corp.

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00909

RHODE ISLAND

Kelly Beth Mendell

President

MIKEL, Inc.

Middletown, RI 02842

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ronald David McNeil

CEO

Hannah Solar Government Services

Charleston, SC 29492

SOUTH DAKOTA

Kevin Nyberg

President/CEO

Nyberg's Ace Hardware, Inc.

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

TENNESSEE

Joseph Powers

Owner

Green Cube Solutions

Blountville, TN 37617

TEXAS

Von C. Washington Sr.

President and CEO

IDA Technology

El Paso, TX 79905

UTAH

Paul Casper Merrill

CEO/President

Casper's Ice Cream, Inc.

Dbas Fatboy Ice Cream, Inc.

Richmond, UT 84333

VERMONT

Sacha Mayer

CEO, Co-Founder

Christine Dodson

COO, Co-Founder

Mamava, Inc.

Burlington, VT 05401

VIRGINIA

David S. Kyle II

President/Chief Executive Officer

Trademasters Service Corporation

Lorton, VA 22079

WASHINGTON

Danny House

Owner

Dan The Sausageman

Burien, WA 98166

WEST VIRGINIA

Douglas Tate

President & CEO

Alpha Technologies, Inc.

Hurricane, WV 25526

WISCONSIN

Miles Harter

CEO

Curt Greeno

President

Dynamic Recycling

Onalaska, WI 54650

WYOMING

Tyler Reed Miller

President

Earth Work Solutions

Gillette, WY 82717

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit www.sba.gov.