



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Announces Washington 2007 Small Business Awards

SEATTLE – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Seattle District Office has named **Karen Say, President and CEO of Saybr Contractors, Inc.**, as the **2007 Washington State Small Business Person of the Year**. She is a Tacoma-area contractor specializing in commercial and industrial construction services and environmental remediation for petroleum fueling systems.

“Small business success happens when the going gets tough and the tough get going, and in Say’s case growing – into a multi-million dollar operation,” said SBA Seattle District Director, Nancy Gilbertson. “Say exemplifies a winning combination of tenacity and true grit.”

An independent panel of judges selected the winner based on several criteria, including staying power, business growth, increase in employees, response to adversity, innovation, leadership and contributions to the small business community, and evidence of community-oriented projects. As the state winner, Say will compete with 52 other winners from across the country for the national Small Business Person of the Year award.

The **Washington State SBA Small Business Awards Event – *a big night for small business*** - will be held in **Seattle** on **May 4** at the **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center**. In addition to celebrating Say’s outstanding accomplishments, the award ceremony will honor:

- **Young Entrepreneurs** – Jeremy Ames and David Nilssen, Guidant Financial Group, Inc in Bellevue;
- **Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business** - Khristina Judy, Lori Cook and Katherine Zoda, Randolph Construction Services, Inc, in Pasco

Also featured will be five **Washington State SBA Champion award winners** who support and advocate on behalf of small businesses and entrepreneurship.

- **Financial Services Champion** – Cheri L. Pieterman, KeyBank in Tacoma;
- **Minority Small Business Champion** – Victor Valdez in Seattle;
- **Women-owned Business Champion** – Christine Clair Wallace, Gracewinds Perinatal Services, Inc. in Seattle;
- **Veteran Business Champion** – Jeffrey A. Slotnick, Setracon Inc in Tacoma, and;
- **Small Business Journalist** – David G. Cortinas, La Voz Hispanic Newspaper in Pasco

“Our winners remind us that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in Washington State,” said SBA Seattle District Director, Nancy Gilbertson. “They are the cream of the crop.”

For information about SBA’s National Small Business Week 2007 celebrations in Washington, D.C., go to <http://www.sba.gov/nominationsguidelines/index.html>.