

NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Administrator Guzman Announces 2024 National Small Business Week Award Winners

Alabama Awardees to be Honored during National Small Business Week during April 28-May 3.

WASHINGTON – On March 7, SBA <u>Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman</u>, the voice in President Biden's Cabinet for America's more than 33 million small businesses, announced the <u>National Small Business Week</u> (NSBW) 2024 Award Winners, comprised of business owners, lending partners, and advocates who embody the grit and determination that power our nation's economy and ensure disaster-impacted communities can recover. This year's NSBW Award Ceremonies will take place April 28 - 29, 2024 in Washington, D.C., where Administrator Guzman will recognize the national award winners and individual state winners, and also announce the top honor of National Small Business Person of the Year from among the individual state winners.

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Alabama District Director, Thomas Todt stated, "We are incredibly honored to see Alabama small businesses represented and recognized not only on a local level, but also on a national level. These small businesses have shown exceptional growth, resilience, and excellence. Their dedication truly showcases the vibrant entrepreneurial spirits of our Alabama communities. Additionally, we would like to offer congratulations to our resource partner and winner of the Veteran Business Outreach Center of the Year award, the Veteran Business Outreach Center at Mississippi State University. We appreciate our working relationship with them and are grateful for their services to veteran communities and their spouses across the state."

The Alabama District Office will recognize Alabama NSBW awardees on Friday, May 3, 2024. More information on that event is forthcoming.

2024 Alabama State Small Business Person of the Year: Transformation Partners, Tuscaloosa, AL

In addition to state-level recognition, national awards will also be presented in the following categories to the following Alabama Businesses:

Phoenix Awards for Disaster Recovery:

• Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery: The Coffee Shoppe, Selma, AL

Awards to SBA Resource Partners:

• **Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Yea**r: Mississippi State University VBOC, Starkville, MS; which provides services to Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Lastly, the Alabama District Office will be recognizing local only awards in the following categories to the following:

Local NSBW Awards:

- Alabama Minority Owned Small Business of the Year: Virtual Ingenuity, Trussville,
 AL
- Alabama Woman Owned Small Business of the Year: Studio 2H Design, Birmingham, AL
- Alabama Veteran Owned Small Business of the Year: Ethic Tech, Huntsville, AL

For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.sba.gov/NSBW.

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About National Small Business Week

In the spirit of National Small Business Week, we celebrate the unprecedented growth of entrepreneurship in the United States, marked by 16 million new business applications since the Biden-Harris Administration took office. This surge highlights the dynamism and innovation that America's entrepreneurs bring to our local communities. The SBA will continue to champion the endeavors of small businesses and the vital role they play in driving economic prosperity across the nation.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.