



PRESS RELEASE



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Contact: Kelly McLeod, Marketing Specialist
kmcLeod@uwf.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Charlie Clary and Representative Leslie Waters Selected to Receive FSBD Network's 2002 Small Business Dividend\$ Awards

Pensacola, FL: Today, the Florida Small Business Development Network, in partnership with the Florida Chamber of Commerce, announced Senator Charlie Clary and Representative Leslie Waters as the 2002 recipients of the **Small Business Dividend\$ Award**. The awards will be presented at the Network's **Third Annual Product Exposition, Luncheon and Reception** on Wednesday, February 27th, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM on the 22nd Floor of The Capitol. Lt. Governor Frank Brogan has been invited to present the awards.

Annually, one member of both the Florida House and Senate are presented with the **Dividend\$ Award** in recognition of the member's efforts on identified joint organizational, economic development and business issues in pursuit of a broader and enhanced business environment in which entrepreneurs can successfully form, sustain and grow businesses. This year's awards are particularly significant due to the negative impact the events of September 11th have had on small business and the Florida economy.

The Florida Chamber tracks the voting records of legislators on its identified issues as adopted by the Chamber Legislative Policy Council and its Board of Directors. This year, through coordination efforts with the FSBD Network, the Florida Chamber enhanced the overall business agenda to include economic development issues. The results, which are based upon votes taken during the course of the legislative session, are analyzed to determine the percentage of votes in support of the total identified business agenda.

"SBDC's have represented the state's entrepreneurs and small business sector for over 25 years. During that time the Network has expanded its resources and specific services to meet the ever-changing needs of this key sector in Florida's economy, including quick responses to economic issues in Lake Okeechobee and Apalachicola, as well as the continuing economic injury loan needs. Governor Jeb Bush recently recognized this SBDC role by awarding the state's **Economic Patriotism Award** to Dan Regelski, Director of the Ft. Myers SBDC. Likewise, annually identifying those legislators who are sensitive to and that pro-actively support statewide business issues to make Florida a great place to form, grow and sustain a business deserve our recognition and support," said State Director Jerry Cartwright.

"The Florida Chamber is keenly aware of the needs of small business in Florida. The Florida Chamber, through our Federation, represents 73 local chambers and 87,000 businesses, most of which are business entrepreneurs. We carefully track the voting record of legislators, particularly in areas that could increase the cost of doing business, and we are quick to applaud and recognize those legislators who champion the free enterprise system," said Frank Ryll, Florida Chamber president.

The SBDC Network also presents an annual **Dividend\$ Award** to a member of Florida's Congressional delegation, recognizing their efforts at the federal level to improve the prospects of business success. The 2001 award was presented to retired Senator Connie Mack at the Network's Second Annual Capitol Briefing in Washington, D.C. on March 14th. The Third Annual Capitol Briefing is scheduled for March 20th at the Florida House in Washington, D.C. The 2002 award recipient will be announced in the near future.

Honorary Chairs

- Representative Jeffrey Atwater
- Senator Anna Cowin
- Representative Mike Haridopolos
- Representative Chris Hart IV
- Representative Bev Kilmer
- Senator Ron Klein
- Representative Bruce Kyle
- Representative Carlos Lacasa
- Representative Jerry Maygarden

Co-Sponsoring Partners in Business

GOLD

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SILVER

- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida Drug Screening, Inc.

Product Exposition

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

22nd Floor of The Capitol

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Awards Reception

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Frank Brogan are invited to present awards

State Director's Office • 19 West Garden Street • Suite 300 • Pensacola, Florida 32501
(850) 595-6060 / (800) 644-SBDC • fax (850) 595-6070 • fsbdc@uwf.edu • www.floridasbdc.com

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