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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## State Director Jerry Cartwright Recognizes FSBDC Network's 2002 Performance Award Winners



Award Winners present at Conference  
Front L-R: Eunice Choi; Kristene Manning; Sharon O'Hara  
Middle L-R: Ricki Shoraka; Tom Hermanson; Miguel Nieves; Ken Stepanz  
Back L-R: Mark Patrick; Jim Parrish; James Smith; Len Hamel

Pensacola, FL: On June 17, 2002, State Director Jerry Cartwright recognized the Florida Small Business Development Center Network's **2002 Performance Award Winners** at an Awards Luncheon scheduled in conjunction with the FSBDC's Annual Professional Development Conference at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine. Each year, FSBDC Network employees and volunteers are recognized for their outstanding efforts in supporting and fulfilling the Network's mission to help entrepreneurs form, sustain and grow successful businesses in Florida.

The award categories include: Excalibur Award for Excellence; Statewide Volunteer of the Year; Regional Volunteer of the Year; Regional Certified Business Analyst (CBA) Impact Award; and Regional Employee of the Year. In addition, the Association of SBDCs honors an outstanding SBDC employee from every state as a Star Performer. For Florida, the Excalibur Award winner from the preceding year is automatically nominated for the Star Performer Award. The FSBDC Network proudly recognizes each of the following award winners:

### Star Performer

- Eunice Choi, Associate Director/CBA, University of Central Florida SBDC, Orlando

### Excalibur Award for Excellence

- Miguel Nieves, CBA, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Miami

### Statewide Volunteer of the Year Award

- Mark Patrick, Volunteer, University of North Florida SBDC, Jacksonville

### Regional Volunteer of the Year Awards

- Pedro Luis Campo, Volunteer, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Miami
- Roy Valdes, Volunteer, Brevard Community College SBDC, Melbourne
- Len Hamel, Volunteer, University of South Florida SBDC, Tampa
- Mark Patrick, Volunteer, University of North Florida SBDC, Jacksonville
- Glenn Gillyard, Volunteer, University of West Florida SBDC, Ft. Walton Beach
- Ray Schumann, Volunteer, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC, Ft. Myers

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#### Regional Certified Business Analyst (CBA) Impact Awards

- Miguel Nieves, CBA, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Miami
- Eunice Choi, Associate Director/CBA, University of Central Florida SBDC, Orlando
- Jim Parrish, CBA, University of South Florida SBDC, Tampa
- Sharon O'Hara, PTAC Specialist/CBA, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC PTAC, Ft. Myers
- Kenneth Stephanz, CBA, Indian River Community College SBDC, Vero Beach

#### Regional Employee of the Year Awards

- Parbatee Chang, CBA, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Boca Raton
- Tom Hermanson, Assistant Manager/CBA, University of West Florida SBDC, Ft. Walton Beach
- James Smith, Manager/CBA, Seminole Community College SBDC, Sanford
- Kristene Manning, Office Manager, University of South Florida SBDC, Tampa
- Peggy Chambers, Office Assistant, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC, Ft. Myers
- Ricki Shoraka, Office Manager, University of North Florida SBDC, Jacksonville
- Andre Brewton, CBA, Gulf Coast Community College SBDC, Panama City

"Each year, the Network recognizes individuals, such as these award winners, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the SBDC program and the small business community. Their work ethic ensures Florida's entrepreneurs receive the best information and assistance possible and facilitates a business environment that contributes to their success," says Jerry Cartwright, State Director.

The FSBDC Network is the largest and most successful business assistance program in Florida -- featuring 32 centers strategically located throughout the state, with additional outreach provided at resource partner locations, including economic development councils, chambers of commerce and banks. The Network links the resources of federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector to provide the highest quality business management and technical assistance to entrepreneurs in Florida. Through the Network and its professionally trained Certified Business Analysts, existing small business owners and prospective entrepreneurs have access to free and confidential, one-on-one counseling on virtually any area of business management, as well as educational training events and information resources.

For additional information about the Florida SBDC Network, visit our web site at [www.FloridaSBDC.com](http://www.FloridaSBDC.com).