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# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### U.S. SBA's Kaaren Johnson Street and State Director Jerry Cartwright Present 2003 FSBDC Performance and Local SBA Small Business/Advocacy Awards



Jerry Cartwright and Kaaren Johnson Street present FSBDC Performance and local SBA Small Business/Advocacy Awards



**Award Winners present at Conference**

Front L-R: Diane Barlar; Dan Cavanaugh; Teri Takahashi; Barbara Boles; Pauline Davis; Laura Subel; Eunice Choi; Stephen Kaufman; Tim Ledvina / Back L-R: Julio Estremera; Terri Reshard; Wayne Harris; Suzanne Specht; Mario Iezzoni; Phil Scruton

**Pensacola, FL:** On June 9, 2003, SBA's Associate Deputy Administrator of Entrepreneurial Development Kaaren Johnson Street and State Director Jerry Cartwright presented the **2003 Florida Small Business Development Center Network's Performance and local SBA Small Business/Advocacy Awards** at an Award's Luncheon scheduled in conjunction with the FSBDC's Annual Professional Development Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn on Pensacola Beach. Each year, FSBDC Network employees and volunteers are recognized for their outstanding efforts in supporting and fulfilling the Network's mission to help entrepreneurs start and grow successful businesses in Florida.

The FSBDC Network 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 and State Director's Office 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

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

#### Excalibur Award for Excellence

- Suzanne Specht, Assistant Director/CBA, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC, Ft. Myers

#### Statewide Volunteer of the Year Award

- Martin Nebojsic, Volunteer, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Boca Raton

#### Regional Volunteer of the Year Awards

- Wallace Weeks, Volunteer, UCF/Brevard Community College SBDC, Orlando/Melbourne
- Len Hamel, Volunteer, University of South Florida SBDC, Tampa
- Stephen Kaufman, Volunteer, University of North Florida SBDC, Jacksonville
- Jacqueline Henry & Alberta Granger, Volunteers, Florida A&M University SBDC, Tallahassee
- Wayne Harris, Volunteer, University of West Florida SBDC, Pensacola
- Karen Mosteller, Volunteer, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC, Ft. Myers

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

- Dan Cavanaugh, Manager/CBA, University of West Florida SBDC, Pensacola
- Mario Iezzoni, CBA, University of South Florida SBDC, Tampa
- Phil Scruton, CBA, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Boca Raton
- Eunice Choi, Associate Director/CBA, University of Central Florida SBDC, Orlando
- Julio Estremera, CBA, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC, Ft. Myers

### **Regional and State Director's Office Employee of the Year Awards**

- Laura Subel, State Program Manager, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, State Director's Office, Pensacola
- Tim Ledvina, Program Development Specialist, University of North Florida SBDC, Gainesville
- Teri Takahashi, Training Manager, Florida Atlantic University SBDC, Boca Raton
- Barbara Boles, Senior Secretary, Florida A&M University SBDC, Tallahassee
- Alberto Chavez, CBA, Florida Gulf Coast University SBDC, Ft. Myers
- Pauline Davis, Assistant Director/CBA, University of Central Florida SBDC, Orlando
- Terri Reshard, CBA, University of West Florida SBDC, Ft. Walton Beach
- Pat Bryant, Co-Director of First Impressions, University of South Florida SBDC, Tampa

"I'm extremely pleased to present our statewide outstanding employees and volunteers of the year who exemplify the SBDC program's guiding principles of: service to the client above all else; hard work, individual productivity and continuous improvement; excellence in reputation, being part of something special; recognition and respect for all employees; honesty and integrity and, work is fun," says Cartwright. "These dedicated professionals have ensured that entrepreneurs and small business owners receive the best information and assistance possible to contribute to their success. Their customer impact speaks for itself and their customers speak loudly of them. We're proud of their service to the business community and to the institution they represent."

Also, in conjunction with the Conference and Award's Luncheon, Kaaren Johnson Street and University of West Florida SBDC Executive Director Larry Strain recognized the following local SBA Small Business and Advocacy Award Winners for their achievements and dedication to an entrepreneurial spirit that fosters economic growth in Florida:

### **2003 Small Business Person of the Year - North Florida District and State of Florida**

- George Gonzalez, President/CEO, Aerospace Integration Corporation, Aircraft System Integrators, Ft. Walton Beach

### **2003 Women in Business Advocate of the Year - North Florida District and State of Florida**

- Alice Dianne Barlar, Director, Extended Credit Instruction, University of West Florida, Ft. Walton Beach



Kaaren Johnson Street; George Gonzalez; Larry Strain



Aerospace Integration Group at front table



Kaaren Johnson Street; Dianne Barlar; Larry Strain

*The FSBDC Network is the only statewide business assistance program in Florida -- featuring 31 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).*