

PRESS RELEASE

Annually, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recognizes those small businesses that stand out as leaders in the business community. These awards include Small Business Person of the Year, Emerging Small Business Person, Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Small Business, SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year, and many more.

This year the nominations of Business Lending Partners, a Division of the RCEDC, resulted in three businesses/leaders in the community being selected for the Wisconsin's SBA 2009 Awards, including its "Small Business Person of the Year" award. These winners are:

Small Business Person of the Year:

Craig Faust, President and CEO of HGI Co., Burlington, locally known as Hi Liter Graphics.

Young Entrepreneur:

LaToya Robbins, owner-operator of LaPre Enterprises, Inc. dba X-Cite Child Care Center.

Veteran Small Business Champion:

Carl Bogar, local veteran employment representative, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

Congratulations to all those who won! Awards will be presented at the SBA's annual breakfast on June 5th at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the Federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA recognizes that small business is critical to economic recovery and strength, to building America's future, and to helping the United States compete in today's global marketplace. The SBA's mission is simple: to help Americans start, build and grow businesses.

Business Lending Partners serves to promote business development throughout the state of Wisconsin by providing business owners with secondary financing options for eligible projects. For more information, please contact Carolyn Engel, Business Finance Manager at (262) 898-7420.
