



News Release

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Clarkstown International Collision Wins Federal Government's Small Business of the Year 2007

New York's Best and Brightest Small Businesses and Small Business Advocates Honored at Ceremony Today

New York, NY--- The New York District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration today presented awards to eight outstanding New York small business owners and small business advocates as part of the celebration of ***National Small Business Week 2007***.

The winners were selected in a competitive process from throughout the SBA's New York District servicing area which includes New York City, Long Island and the downstate counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

Small Business of the Year award winner, Eugenio Cortes, owner of Clarkstown International Collision of West Nyack, NY was recognized for, among other accomplishments, starting a business with just three employees and \$100 in working capital, and growing it to a \$5 million business with 27 employees. Clarkstown's growth was helped in part by a \$1.5 million loan from the New York Business Development Corporation that was guaranteed by the SBA.

Over 200 business leaders, economic development officials, family and friends attended the awards ceremony at the Ted Weiss Federal Building in Manhattan. The following awards were also presented:

Financial Services Champion of the Year

James C. Metzler, Vice President for Small Firm Interests
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
New York, NY (Resident of East Amherst, NY)

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

Althea Burton, Center Manager
Project Enterprise
New York, NY

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Jillian White, President
White Picket Fence Appraisals, Inc.
Mohegan Lake, NY

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Daniel Kerning, President
WebHouse, Inc.
Rockville Center, NY

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Eduardo Giraldo, President
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Queens
Queens, NY

Women in Business Champion of the Year

Colleen Molter, President
QED National
New York, NY (Resident of Rockville Center, NY)

Small Business Journalist of the Year

Adina Genn, Small Business Reporter
Long Island Business News
Ronkonkoma, NY (Resident of Port Washington, NY)

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