



SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-3500
www.sba.gov/ca/sandiego

April 21, 2009

Mr. Michael Patton, MA, CMM, President & CEO
Pothos, Inc.
2260 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 474
San Diego, CA 92104

Dear Mr. Patton:

Congratulations on being named SBA's 2009 San Diego District Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year! This award recognizes you as the outstanding small business champion among all candidates in San Diego and Imperial counties.

You are cordially invited to be the guest of the Small Business Administration and our co-sponsor, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, at our annual Small Business Week Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. The banquet will highlight the importance of small business to our community. It will be held at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley - San Diego. No host cocktails will be served at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m., followed by the actual awards presentations to all the winners. An agenda and day of instructions will be emailed to you the week prior to the event. If you are unable to participate in the May 27 event or have questions regarding the event, please contact Cynthia Harris at (619) 727-4884 or Cynthia.harris@sba.gov. For your information, we have enclosed a list of all of the 2009 San Diego District Office Award Winners.

Please contact Judith Andry at (619) 544-1341 or email at jandry@sdchamber.org, to confirm your attendance at the Awards Banquet, and to make arrangements for attendance of any others (e.g. family, friends, employees, etc.). We look forward to seeing you on May 27th.

Sincerely,

Ruben R. Garcia
District Director

2009 SBA Small Business Award Winners - San Diego District Office

Small Business Person of the Year

Christine McDannell, President/Founder

Cleanology, Inc.

Nominated by: Self Nominated

Family-Owned Small Businesses of the Year

Eric J. Barajas, President

NEI Contracting & Engineering, Inc.

Nominated by: Patty Staples, EVP-Chief Credit Officer, Neighborhood National Bank

Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year

Gale L. Walker, President and Secretary

Children of the Rainbow, Inc.

Nominated by: Patty Staples, EVP-Chief Credit Officer, Neighborhood National Bank

Small Business Exporter of the Year

Ken Kuang, President

Torrey Hills Technologies, LLC

Nominated by: Self Nominated

Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year

Michael Patton, MA, CMM, President & CEO

Pothos, Inc.

Nominated by: Self Nominated

Women-Owned Small Business of the Year

Judith L. Seid, Certified Financial Planner Practitioner

Blue Summit Financial Group, Inc.

Nominated by: Shane Johnston, Accredited Investment Fiduciary

Blue Summit Financial Group, Inc.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Swarna J. Srinivas, President

KESDEE, Inc.

Nominated by: BV Nagaraja, Marcom Executive, KESDEE, Inc.

Entrepreneurial Success Award

Hany M. Girgis, CEO, President and Founder

SGIS High Impact Solutions

Nominated by: Ms. Caryn Badea, Communications Associate, SkillStorm, Inc.

Financial Services Champion of the Year

Steven C. Leibold, President

San Diego Business Advisors

*Nominated by: Ken Clark, Small Business Services Coordinator,
Small Business Development & International Trade Center*

2009 SBA Small Business Award Winners - San Diego District Office

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Mark R. Oakes, President

Transformation Quest

*Nominated by: Ken Clark, Small Business Services Coordinator,
Small Business Development & International Trade Center*

Small Business Journalist of the Year

Ditas D. Yamane, Publisher, National City Times and Filipino

Owner, D. R. Marketing & Promotions –Volunteer, National City Chamber of Commerce

*Nominated by: Ken Clark, Small Business Services Coordinator,
Small Business Development & International Trade Center*

Veteran Business Champion of the Year

Corrina B. Brennan, Employment Specialist

Family Member Employment Assistance Program

Marine & Family Services Camp Pendleton, CA

Nominated by: Joseph Molina, North San Diego County SBDC at MiraCosta College

Additional awards to be announced and presented at the Awards Banquet.