



Press Release

North Florida District Office

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SBA Announces 2017 District and State of Florida Small Business Week Winners

Jacksonville, FLA. - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) North Florida District Director Wilfredo J. Gonzalez is pleased to announce the winners of SBA's 2017 District and State of Florida Small Business Week Awards.

"Small Business Week is an opportunity for the SBA to recognize the hard-work and accomplishments of small business owners throughout the country. I am pleased to announce the winners in our area. These winners are highly deserving of their respective awards and recognition," stated Gonzalez.

North Florida District Small Business Person of the Year

Gabriel Ruiz, LTC, USA (Ret)

[Advanced IT Concepts, Inc.](#), Winter Springs, Fla.

North Florida District and State of Florida Minority Owned Small Business Person of the Year

Hanan Hamed-Furqan, President/CEO

[THREERZ Company, LLC](#), Jacksonville, Fla.

North Florida District and State of Florida Small Business Woman-Owned Person of the Year

Sheryl Page, President/CEO

[Page One Consultants, Inc.](#), Orlando, Fla.

North Florida District Small Business Advocate of the Year

James Boyd Stallings, Managing Partner

[PS27 Ventures](#), Jacksonville, Fla.

North Florida District Small Business Financial Advocate of the Year

Janice Bounds, Vice President of SBA Lending

[CBC National Bank](#), Jacksonville, Fla.**North Florida, State of Florida, and Region IV 8(a) Graduate of the Year**

Andrew "Andy" Harold, President

[A. Harold and Associates](#), Jacksonville, Fla.

The 2017 South Florida District and **State of Florida Small Business Person of the Year is Paul Morrow, President of South Dade Air Conditioning and Refrigeration based out of Homestead, Fla.** For a full list of South Florida winners, please contact Heather Hines at [305\) 536-5521 x104](tel:3055365521).

The 2017 Small Business Week Award Winners from the Jacksonville area will be recognized at the Annual Small Business Week & Lender Awards Celebration on May 4, 2017 in Jacksonville at the University of North Florida's University Center from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. This event is hosted by Janice Donaldson, Regional Director for the Small Business Development Center at the University of North Florida. 2016 Top Lenders will also be recognized at this event.

The Orlando area Small Business Week winners will be honored at a private event hosted by Eunice Choi, Regional Director for the Small Business Development Center at the University of Central Florida, on May 16, 2016, at the Citrus Club.

Each year since 1963, the president has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. National Small Business Week is set as the first week in May, and this year the dates are April 30 – May 6 with national events planned in Washington, D.C., New York City, Indianapolis, Dallas and Fresno, Calif.

For more information about local winners or programs available through the Small Business Administration, please visit the agency Website at www.sba.gov/fl/north or call [\(904\) 443-1900](tel:9044431900).