



## Oklahoma Small Business Awards

- Small Business Exporter of the Year
- SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Oklahoma Family-Owned Business of the Year.
- Minority Small Business Champion of the Year
- Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

The SBA Small Business Champions will be selected at the State (Oklahoma) level by a panel of judges. The winners will be announced during National Small Business Week.

### **Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria**

To be nominated and receive one of these awards, the small business nominee must fit within the category of the award. Each of the above Small Business Champion awards has specific evaluation criteria

#### **Small Business Exporter of the Year**

Any individual who owns and operates a small business engaged in exporting may be nominated.

1. Increased sales, profits and/or growth of employment because of exporting.
2. Creative export marketing strategies.
3. Effective solutions to export-related problems.
4. Demonstrated encouragement of and assistance to other small businesses to export.
5. Cooperation with other businesses in the creation of export trading companies and/or introduction of unique trading relationships, products or services.
6. A description of the products exported and markets served

#### **SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

To be considered a young entrepreneur, the individual must serve as a majority owner and operate or bear principal responsibility for operating a small business with at least a three year track record, and who will not have reached the age of 30 by June 1, 2014

1. Evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.
2. Increased employment opportunities created by the nominee's business.
3. Development and/or utilization of innovative or creative business methods.
4. Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.

### **Minority Small Business Champion of the Year**

An individual who has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of small business opportunities for minority business owners may be nominated.

1. Volunteer efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance minority small business interests within the community, state and/or nation.
2. Demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
3. Volunteer efforts to provide professional services to the minority small business community in a legal, legislative, managerial or financial capacity.
4. Demonstrated accomplishments in advising minority small business groups of opportunities within the overall business community.
5. Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's merit as an effective advocate for minority small business interests.

### **Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**

An individual who has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces may be nominated.

1. Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses.
2. Evidence of increased business opportunities for veterans as a result of the nominee's actions.
3. Advisory activities to improve awareness of small business opportunities among veterans' groups.
4. Advocacy of special consideration for veteran-owned small businesses in government policymaking.
5. Demonstrated success in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses.
6. Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective advocacy of veteran-owned small businesses.

*It is all about learning to dance in the rain!*