



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, please contact:

Anne Woods
Asst. Dir. Marketing & Training
Kansas Small Business
Development Center
785-296-6514

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Sixteen Kansas businesses selected as the KSBDC 2008 Emerging and Existing Businesses of the Year

Topeka, KS – The Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC) announced the 2008 Emerging and Existing businesses of the Year this week. Each of the eight KSBDC regional centers selected one emerging and one existing business in their region for the award. In total, sixteen Kansas small businesses will be recognized at a ceremony in Topeka on March 10. The businesses were selected from nearly 900 businesses that received KSBDC services in 2008.

“Our consultants selected the businesses based on their evaluation of several criteria for existing and emerging businesses,” explained Wally Kearns, KSBDC state director. “Some of the areas they evaluate include major accomplishments while establishing and growing the business, obstacles they overcame, profitability and contributions they have made to the communities in which they do business.”

During the last two months, the business owners participated in video interviews about their businesses. The video will be presented at the awards ceremony on March 10. The public is welcome to attend this event. In addition, the public can view event details and success stories and photos about each of the business owners at http://www.kansas.gov/ksbdc/2008Success_Stories_&Impact/index.html

2008 award recipients and their businesses are:

Existing

Pet Sitting Pal

Reneé Flott, owner
Emporia

The Furniture Look, Inc.

Karen Dreiling, owner
Hays

EmbroidMe

Gavin and Kim Unruh, owners
Dodge City

AVON Beauty Center

Elizabeth and George Demas, owners
Overland Park

Howard Pine's Garden Center & Green Houses

Gerald Pine, owner
Lawrence

Acorn Valley Custom Cabinetry

Jim Houston and Bob Greif, owners
Thayer

Morrill Collision Repair, Inc.

Lonnie and Melanie Teeter, owners
Morrill

Service Master by Clean In a Wink

Jerry E. Winkley, owner
Wichita

Emerging

Eagle Creek Vineyards

Jo Ann Kuhlmann, owner
Olpe

Flower Cottage

Kathy and Robert Kuntz, owners
Quinter

Appraisals of Garden City / Oswalt Appraisals

Alan Oswalt, owner
Garden City

MUSIC HOUSE

school of music

Aaron Sizemore and Katrinka Riggs, owners
Overland Park

Local Burger

Hilary Brown, owner
Lawrence

Oakview Estates Assisted Living

Mark Scales & Jason Lahr, owners
Frontenac

New Boston Creative Group, LLC

Kristin Brighton, Susan Religa, Lisa Sisley, partners
Manhattan

Longford Water Company, LLC

Wava and Kim Kramer, owners/managers
Longford

About KSBDC:

The Kansas Small Business Development Center Network is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Kansas Department of Commerce. KSBDC is nationally accredited through the Association of Small Business Development Centers by Congressional mandate. KSBDC receives funding from and partners with higher education and economic development organizations to provide Kansas entrepreneurs with no-cost business consulting and resources for starting, maintaining and growing their businesses. The statewide host for the KSBDC is Fort Hays State University. For more information about the KSBDC Network visit www.kansas.gov/ksbdc or call 1.877.625.7232.