

## Nineteen Kansas small businesses recognized at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerging and Existing Businesses of the Year Ceremony

For more information contact:

Anne Woods

Kansas Small Business Development Center

Ksbdc.aewoods@fhsu.edu

(785) 296-6514

03.12.08



Topeka, KS –The Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC) presented its fifth annual Emerging and Existing Businesses of the Year Awards Ceremony at the state capitol building on Tuesday. Nineteen Kansas small businesses were recognized for their accomplishments and presented plaques by their Kansas legislators. These businesses were selected from over 2,200 business that received KSBDC services in 2007.

The event opened with remarks from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. She thanked the business owners for contributing to the economic prosperity of Kansas and encouraged them to help others who may want to go into business for themselves.

“You are being honored for your entrepreneurial skills and willingness to actually step-up and create a business. That takes an enormous amount of courage, vision, business planning, and willingness to take a little risk, she said. “I hope others can learn from you in the future.”

Governor Sebelius also thanked Dr. Edward H. Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University, for two decades of leadership. Fort Hays State University is the host university of the Kansas Small Business Development Center Network.

Wally Kearns, State Director, KSBDC, introduced guest speaker, Antonio Doss, Associate Administrator of the Office of Small Business Development at the US Small Business Administration in Washington, DC. Doss emphasized that the award recipients represent true entrepreneurialism.

“You represent what is important to this country. You represent entrepreneurialism. It is your drive, your energy, your commitment actually, that fuels this economy that makes this nation something special.”

Doss recognized the award recipients for being willing to at some point in their lives make a choice to open a business.

“You decided, as the governor said, to take a risk. When you take a risk and go into small business, you know there is an opportunity to realize your dreams but also there is no guarantee.”

This is a special year for the Kansas Small Business Development Center as it celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The KSBDC has been an integral player in economic development in Kansas since its inception in October of 1983. KSBDC clients create new wealth in Kansas by starting and growing businesses, creating and saving jobs, and accessing capital. Since its inception, KSBDC has consulted with 82,000 Kansas entrepreneurs. In addition, 82,452 Kansans have participated in 4,863 KSBDC workshops.

2007 award recipients and their businesses are:

**Existing**

**Sensei Salon, LLC**

Emporia

Marlina and Gary Poff owners

**The Western Times**

Sharon Springs

Julie Samuelson, owner

**Protown Glass & Body (2006 Recipient)**

Protection, Kansas

John and Patricia Gean, owners

**Sunflower Home Health, Inc.**

Garden City

Christa McKinney, owner

**CHC Creative Remodeling (CHCCR)**

Lenexa

Kevin and Judy Transue, owners

**Front Row Sports**

Garnett

Roger and Sandy Sample, owners

**Chavez Restoration**

Lawrence/Topeka

Dan Chavez, Trinidad Chavez and Richard Chavez, owners

**Smith Audio Visual, Inc.**

Topeka

Larry Heilman, owner

**A Box 4 U**

Wichita

Jeff Lange, owner

**The Feathered Nest, Tibbetts Brothers, Inc.**

Belleville

Lynette Beam, manager

**Emerging**

**Sunflower Gymnastics, LLC**

Osage City, Emporia, Burlington

David and Stacie Doemland, owners

**Fox Pavilion**

Hays

Brooks Kellogg, owner

**KC's Cippi Salsa**

Hugoton/Kismet

Kimberly and Christopher Sandoval, owners

**Johnny Brusco's New York Style Pizza**

Overland Park

Mike Gleason, owner

**The Decorum**

Pittsburg

Judy Dugan, owner

**Wheat State Pizza, LLC**

Lawrence

Ryan Murphy, owner

**Cocoa Dolce Artisan Chocolates**

Wichita

Beth Tully, owner

**Pony Express Service Center, LLC**

Hanover

John L. Diederich, owner

**JC Mortgage & Title Company**

Junction City

Brenda Gentry, owner

The Kansas Small Business Development Center Network is a statewide network of business assistance centers. The network provides free, confidential, one-on-one consulting designed to find practical solutions to business problems. The KSBDC is administered by Fort Hays State University and is a partnership with the US Small Business Administration and the Kansas Department of Commerce. The centers are located at the following locations:

Emporia State University

Fort Hays State University

Garden City Community College

Johnson County Community College

Pittsburg State University

University of Kansas

Washburn University (Washburn University in Topeka and an outreach center in Manhattan)

Wichita State University (Wichita State University in Wichita and an outreach center at Cloud County Community College in Concordia)

Two new outreach centers recently opened at Allen County Community College in Iola and Independence Community College in Independence. These centers are a collaborative partnership with Emporia State University and Pittsburg State University. Allen County Community College and Independence Community College are part of the Southeast Kansas SYSTEM of Higher Education which also includes Coffeyville Community College, Fort Scott Community College, Labette Community College, and Neosho Community College.

