

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2009

Nominations for Small Business Week Awards 2010

The 2010 Small Business Week Awards Committee for the Harlingen SBA District is now accepting nominations for *Small Business Person of the Year* and other *Small Business Champion* awards through November 13, 2009.

Small Business Winners and Champions selected by the committee will be honored at the district celebration which will be held in the spring of 2010. District winners will then have a chance to compete for state and national honors during National Small Business Week in Washington DC.

Each year Small Business Week honors exceptional small business owners and business advocates all across the United States. Nomination categories include: *Small Business Person of the Year, Financial Services Champion of the Year, Home-Based Business Champion of the Year, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year, Small Business Exporter of the Year, SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Small Business Journalist of the Year, Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year, Women in Business Champion of the Year, and Family-Owned Business of the Year.*

The Committee spearheaded by The University of Texas - Pan American Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and comprised of representatives from the small business community, lenders, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), reviews and communicates to the public the award guidelines set forth by SBA.

"The Small Business Awards offer us a great opportunity to honor the dedication and tenacity of the small business owners and champions in our community. These celebrations recognize those entrepreneurs that are establishing a future for their children and others, helping build our economy, and demonstrating how to overcome every-day obstacles to become successful," remarks Adan Salazar, Small Business Week committee member and Investment Representative with Edward Jones Investments.

The award guidelines may be found on the web at <http://www.sba.gov/nominationsguidelines/>. Individuals or organization interested in nominating a small business or champion should submit their nominations by following these guidelines and sending them to SBDC Director Maria Juarez Serna by e-mail to mariaj2@utpa.edu or by fax at (956) 292-7561.

For further questions, please call the SBDC office at (956) 292-7535; or Gracie Guillen at the U.S. SBA District Office in Harlingen at (956) 427-8533.