



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA ANNOUNCES IOWA'S 2016 SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARD WINNERS

(DES MOINES, Iowa) – In recognition of the small business community's contributions to the American economy and society, the President of the United States designates one week each year as National Small Business Week. Scheduled for the week of May 1st of this year, Small Business Week 2016 will honor the more than 26 million small businesses in America. Since its establishment in 1963, the highlight of this annual tradition is the presentation of awards which focus on the outstanding contributions of small business persons and champions at the district, state and national levels. The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the following winners of its 2016 Iowa Awards who will be recognized during SBA's Small Business Week Awards Reception on May 6th in West Des Moines.

Iowa Small Business Person of the Year

Anthony "Tony" Halstead, CEO - Hoover's Hatchery – Rudd, IA

In 2011, Tony returned to his family's chicken hatchery company to succeed his mother so she could plan for retirement. With assistance from one of the SBA's resource partners – America's SBDC Iowa – Tony has led the reincarnation of an established, regional family business into a growth company within both national and international markets. Since Tony took over the business, he with partners and employees have expanded facilities by 200 percent, production capacity by 400 percent and grown company revenues extensively. Hoover's Hatchery has created 40 new part or fulltime jobs and currently employs 72 in the town of Rudd, population 370.

Halsted will go on to represent Iowa during National Small Business Week ceremonies held in Washington DC during the week of May 1st where he will compete for the National Small Business Person of the Year Award. *Halsted was nominated for this award by Brook Boehmler, regional director of America's SBDC Iowa at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City.*

Iowa Small Business Exporter of the Year

Cemen Tech – Indianola, IA

Cemen Tech, the world's largest manufacturer of volumetric proportioning and continuous mixing systems for concrete, is a 100 percent employee-owned company that has expanded significantly in Indianola and now employs 120 people. Cemen Tech currently exports to 52 countries throughout the world and has a sales staff and dealers who work with potential customers across the globe. Exporting now makes up 40 percent of the company's sales.

While Cemen Tech has established itself as a successful exporter, the company is working to help others succeed as well. It recently partnered with the Warren County Economic Development Corporation on an Exporting 101 panel designed to assist other companies in Warren County learn more about exporting and help them get started in exporting. *Cemen Tech was nominated for this award by Rachel Gocken, operations manager at the Warren Count Economic Development Corporation.*

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Iowa SBA Women in Business Champion of the Year

Lynn Schreder, President – KHI Solutions - Fort Dodge, IA

Shortly after purchasing her own small business, KHI Solutions in Fort Dodge, Lynn Schreder joined the Iowa Chapter the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and quickly became a driving force within the organization. Schreder is in her sixth year as a board member, and is the past president of NAWBO Iowa, having served as Tri-President from 2011-2014 and Co-President from 2014-2015. She is widely recognized as one of Iowa's leading women's business advocates. She has also been an active supporter of the Iowa Women Lead Change (IWLC) conferences and their Invest in She competitions.

During her years as president, Schreder was instrumental in building continuity for a turnaround of NAWBO Iowa that resulted in the chapter tripling its membership. This growth earned NAWBO Iowa recognition as the fastest growing mid-sized chapter in the nation in 2014 and in 2015. Under Schreder's leadership, the chapter expanded statewide and created two satellite locations that have increased women business ownership connections and programming. *Schreder was nominated for this award by NAWBO Iowa.*

Iowa SBA Minority Business Champion of the Year

Ying Sa, Owner – Community CPA – Des Moines, IA

In addition to being a successful entrepreneur, Ying Sa has been dedicated to being an advocate for other minority business owners throughout the state. Among her numerous efforts to assist the minority-small business community, Sa was the driving force behind the creation of the Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit (IES) in 2008. The annual summit, targeted to immigrant entrepreneurs, has grown from 200 attendees in its first year to over 700 attendees annually. IES expanded in 2014 to host smaller "mini-summits" throughout Iowa to create new business opportunities in other regions of the state.

Along with her continued work with IES, Sa volunteers her time with numerous business organizations, lending her professional expertise to existing and potential small business owners. In February of 2010 Ying was presented with the *Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame* award, the highest award given for volunteerism in the State of Iowa. *Sa was nominated for this award by Linda Haus of Des Moines.*

Iowa SBA Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Jathan Chicoine – Veteran Services Coordinator - Iowa State University

After serving six years in the U.S. Navy as a Navy Seal, Jathan Chicoine attended the University of South Dakota, where as a graduate student he was appointed to serve on the SBA's Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs. He joined Iowa State in 2012 after serving as a military contractor providing security to U.S. and Canadian forces in Afghanistan. In his current role, Chicoine coordinates support services for military affiliated students, including coordination of Veterans Administration benefits, orientation and support group programs, and collaborating with partner organizations in the Iowa State and Ames communities. He has also been involved in organizing the annual Iowa Statewide Veterans Conference.

This past January, he served on a panel in Washington D.C. discussing the needs of veterans in agriculture and farming and is currently working with SBA to offer an entrepreneurship program for veterans called "Reboot" to students and community based veterans in central Iowa. Chicoine is also collaborating with Iowa State's Agriculture Entrepreneurial program to pilot specific entrepreneur programming for student veterans. *Chicoine was nominated for this award by Jonathan Wickert, Senior Vice President and Provost at Iowa State University*

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Iowa Small Business Community of the Year
City of Sioux City

This is the second year for the award, which highlights community efforts to support small business. Communities (defined as a city, town, county, regional economic development or planning district) were invited to submit nominations to the SBA's Iowa District Office showcasing their efforts to support small businesses. Submissions were judged on the following criteria:

- Key programs and incentives implemented to attract and retain small businesses.
- Leveraging of community resources with other federal, state, county and local programs to benefit the small business community.
- Examples of how the community directly contributed to the success of a local small business.

Sioux City was selected for demonstrating an ideal collaborative environment for small business success. Initiatives that Sioux City was recognized for included *Start-Up Sioux City*, a collaborative effort between private and public interests to nurture and encourage entrepreneurship within the city. Sioux City's leveraging of federal, state and local government, higher education and community resources was also recognized for helping the city create an ideal small business culture. *Sioux City was nominated for this award by Renae Billings of the Sioux City Office of Economic Development and Ken Beekley, Executive Vice President of the Siouxland Economic Development Corporation.*

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WINNER CONTACT INFO:

- **Tony Halsted – (641) 512-5209**
- **Cemen Tech (Connor Deering, President) – (800) 247-2464**
- **Lynn Schreder – (515) 576-1800**
- **Ying Sa – (515) 288-3188**
- **Jathan Chicoine – (515) 294-9801**
- **Sioux City (Renae Billings, City of Sioux City) – (712) 279-6159**