



News Release

Louisiana Small Business Development Center
Contact: Christine Rambo, Marketing/Communications
Office: 318-342-5506, Cell: 450-7910, Email: crambo@lsbdc.org

LSBDC at Southeastern Louisiana University Honored by Hammond Chamber of Commerce

(Hammond, LA) The Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at Southeastern Louisiana University and its Associate Center Director Sandy Summers were honored with two prestigious awards from the Hammond Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's Installation and Awards Luncheon January 9, 2009. LSBDC at Southeastern received the 2008 Business of the Year Award for its contributions to the Hammond Chamber of Commerce and its members. Summers received the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award.

The LSBDC in Hammond partners with Louisiana Economic Development (LED), U.S. Small Business Development Center (SBA), and Southeastern Louisiana University to provide confidential, one-on-one consulting and entrepreneurial training at no cost or very little cost to small business owners.

"Our center is honored and humbled to receive an award that is held in such high esteem in our community. We strive to provide quality services for the businesses in our service area and hope to do more in 2009 and for years to come," said Bill Joubert, LSBDC at Southeastern Center Director.

"We selected LSBDC at Southeastern as our 2008 Business of the Year because they are a true asset to the Hammond Chamber of Commerce and to our small business members. Their knowledge and resources are invaluable not only to the Chamber but to our community as well," said Daryl Ferrara, Board Chairman for the Hammond Chamber of Commerce.

"Sandy Summers was selected as the 2008 Volunteer of the Year because she has been helping with our Business Expo for years and helping to coordinate seminars and workshops, which are very beneficial to our members. Her tireless efforts for the Hammond Chamber have shown proven results for our members," said Ferrara.

Since 2003 Summers has chaired the logistics and operations subcommittee for the Business Expo, volunteering many hours to ensure the Expo runs smoothly. Summers also compiles an annual training survey for the Hammond Chamber to gauge the needs of its members for business training.

"LSBDC tries to support other organizations that support small business. The Hammond Chamber of Commerce really understands that small business is the economic lifeblood of our economy. I really appreciate being named the 2008 Volunteer of the Year by the Hammond Chamber. It's very nice be acknowledged for your work," said Summers.

LSBDC at Southeastern has been a long-time member of the Hammond Chamber, supporting chamber efforts to promote business and commerce in the Hammond community.

According an independent ASBDC Economic Impact Study for Louisiana, LSBDC clients experience a 25 percent greater sales increase and an 11 percent greater increase in employment as compared to the average Louisiana business.



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development, and participating universities



**LOUISIANA
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**