

**LSBDC Clients and Consultants Win Louisiana Small Business Awards**

**(Baton Rouge)** The Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) network and its clients captured several top honors at the 2009 Louisiana Small Business Awards ceremony at the Governor’s mansion May 21<sup>st</sup>. They were among 18 award winners from around the state honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Louisiana Economic Development during National Small Business Week.

LSBDC at UL-Lafayette received the statewide “Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award,” which recognizes the center’s exceptional performance, economic impact on the Acadiana Region, and dedication to innovation.



LSBDC Team: Mark Galyean, Zachary McNeal, Heidi Melancon, and Nathan Thorton win small business award



Carmen Sunda, Financial Services Champion of Yr.

Carmen Sunda, Center Director for LSBDC-Greater New Orleans Region, was named Financial Services Champion of the Year for her hard work and dedication to helping entrepreneurs. Sunda has assisted countless small businesses through advocacy efforts to increase the usefulness and availability of accounting or financial services for small businesses. She was nominated by the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.

Robert A. Baker, owner of Baker Sales Inc. in Slidell, won Louisiana Small Business Person of the Year. Baker is a long-time client of LSBDC at Southeastern State University and was nominated by that Center because of his excellent business reputation, economic impact in his region, and community involvement.



Robert Baker, Small Business Person of the Year.

Barbara Lamont, owner of New Orleans Teleport, which does business in Lafayette as Calls Plus was honored as the Small & Emerging Business Development Outstanding Client Comeback Award. Lamont is a long-time client of LSBDC at UL-Lafayette and was nominated by that Center for her remarkable comeback from Hurricane Katrina. Lamont and her employees evacuated to Lafayette, where she relocated her call center business. Since then, Lamont’s business revenue has tripled and she has expanded to two call centers.



Barbara Lamont, SEBD Outstanding Client Comeback Award

Randy Doss, owner of A-1 Charters Service received the Small & Emerging Business Development Outstanding Client Award for the company’s growth, community involvement, and effective use of the Small & Emerging Business Development program. Doss is a client of LSBDC at LSU in Shreveport and was nominated by that Center.



Randy Doss wins SEBD Outstanding Client Award

A-1 Charter Service Inc. began in 1989 when Doss bought a used Shreveport bus and began offering local charters for tourists. Today, A-1 has 17 vehicles and 25 full and part-time employees.

A-1 is involved in a full-range of transportation services, from providing transportation for low-income families to work and school to providing rides for celebrities involved in Shreveport’s film industry.