

Small business: Driving America's economy

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The steering committee members of the Women's Leadership Council and winners of the Women in Business Champion of the Year award are Mamie Nicholson (l), Claire Kuhl (third from left), Phyllis Nolan (fourth from left), Elliott Cooper, and Kathryn Wade (r), Congressman Barrett's office. In the middle of National Small Business Week, May 2–8, the Small Business Administration South Carolina District Office held an awards luncheon at the city's convention center on Lincoln Street. The gathering celebrated the small businesses that drive South Carolina's economy and the business advocates who work to improve our state's entrepreneurial environment.

Earlier in the morning the SBA produced a series of seven short seminars on the basics of small business:

- (1) "How to do business with the federal government"
- (2) "How to do business with the state government"
- (3) "Financing your small business"
- (4) "How to manage cash for business success"
- (5) "Access to capital"
- (6) "Lean product development"

(7) “Workforce initiative”



Pictured: Elliott Cooper, district director, SBA South Carolina District Office, with Rebecca Ufkes, UEC Electronics, LLC, Hanahan, SC, Small Business Person of the Year.

Seen among the awards luncheon crowd were Rene Ann Tewkesbury from Sen. Lindsey Graham’s Columbia office and Kathryn Wade, who represented Rep. Gresham Barrett. Also noted was the presence of Norm Paige, the state director for SCORE, the retired executives who offer time and expertise to start-up business owners.

The awards luncheon recognized the South Carolina winners of the SBA’s small business awards competition that began in the fall of the previous year. The awards nominations underwent a strenuous clearance and review process, ensuring that the winners selected were truly extraordinary.