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### **Maine Small Businesses Honored as Outstanding Role Models**

**PORTLAND** – Thirty Maine small businesses will be honored this month as “outstanding role models of entrepreneurship,” according to John Massaua, State Director of the Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC). The award, created to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Maine SBDC, will be presented to honorees by Governor John Baldacci at a March 15 luncheon at the University of Southern Maine (USM).

“The Maine SBDC “30” Awards recognize and celebrate not only thirty small businesses chosen as models of entrepreneurship,” said Massaua, “they also call to attention the instrumental part played by small entrepreneurial companies in building and maintaining the economy of Maine.”

Certified business counselors from Maine SBDC and its tech-focused group, Maine Small Business & Technology Development Centers (Maine SBTDC), nominated the small businesses for the honor. Criteria required that the business had generated measurable impact on their community through job creation, capital formation, technology commercialization and/or the like to build their business.

Massaua said the honorees come from every region of Maine and represent a wide array of disciplines including service, retail, technology, and manufacturing; and do business in a variety of trade sectors including food, forest and fish. They include Maine’s traditional industries, as well as its emergent technologies such as medical devices and composite products. They exemplify female, male, couple owner/operators and include sole-proprietors, partners and corporations. “They have diverse backgrounds and various educational levels,” said Massaua, “but above all, they mean jobs for Maine.”

Each year the Maine SBDC/SBTDC work one-on-one with over 2500 existing or prospective small business owners, many of whom develop and grow into sustainable businesses that contribute significantly to Maine’s economy, its way of life and its people.

Maine’s economy is based on small business. Maine has an estimated total of 151,000 businesses, based on the most recent SBA published data. Firms with employees numbered 41,026 in 2005, of which an estimated 97.5 percent or 40,000 were small firms (fewer than 500 employees) and of those, approximately 33,250 have less than 20 employees. Over 66 % are considered micro-businesses, having fewer than five employees. Small businesses accomplished an annual gain of 8400 new jobs, with 5800 of those new jobs coming from firms employing less than 20 employees. Further, Maine’s non-employee firms (self-employment) are also on the rise, increasing by an annual growth rate of some 3.6 percent.

The final list of the Maine SBDC “30” Award Honorees was selected by a screening committee at the Maine SBDC/SBTDC Statewide Administrative Offices, headquartered at USM’s School of Business.

## The Maine SBDC “30” Award Honorees

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered, LLC	Ellen Knipe & Lauren Watkinson	Brunswick
Down Home Delivery, Inc.	Joe Jala	Portland
Pastor Chuck Orchards	Waite Maclin	Portland
Historic Pittston Farm	Bob & Jenny Mills	Rockwood
C&R Lumber	Carolyn Rockwell	Charleston
Organization Plus	Joyce Parks	Waldoboro
Tom’s Turnouts & Trackwork	Tom Stoltz	Dresden
Mooseville	Corey Ellis	Phillips
Hayes & Associates	Teresea Hayes	Buckfield
Maine Warmers	Betty Hanscom	Scarborough
Looks Gourmet Food Co.	Mike Cote	Whiting
Fazio’s Restaurant	Annette Fazio	York
Hemlock Grove Campground	Audrey Wakefield	Arundel
Baker’s Café	Heather Rowe	Sedgwick
Tide Mill Organic Farm	Aaron & Carly Bell	Dennysville
Fashions	Donna Bennett	Waterville
Freaky Bean Coffee	Jon Stratton & Andy Kessler	Scarborough
Buckwheat Blossom Farm	Amy & Jeff Burchstead	Wiscasset
Custom Composite Technologies, Inc.	Steve & Maureen Hassett	Bath
Echoheart, LLC	Janet Eugley	Damariscotta
Goombah Music Discovery	Diane Sammer	Harpwell
Maine Molecular Quality Controls, Inc.	Joan Gordon & Clark Rundell, Ph.D.	Scarborough
Artful Wares	Tamra Philbrook	Old Town
Speranza Systems	Glen Solimine	Portland
Spring Break Maple & Honey	Kristi Brannen	Smyrna
Woodman’s Bar & Grill	Abe Furth	Orono
The Medicine Shoppe	Lana Hoang, R.Ph.	Lewiston
Likable Recyclables	William Tanner	Farmington
Emergency Dental Services	Denise Nadeau	Waterville
Two Trees Forestry	Harold Burnett	Winthrop

More information on the Symposium and online registration can be found at [www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org).

**About the Maine SBDC Entrepreneurship and Small Business Symposium:** *The Maine SBDC Entrepreneurship and Small Business Symposium, a day of learning, celebration and inspiration, is being held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the Abromson Community Education Center on the Portland Campus of the University of Southern Maine from 8:30am to 5:30pm to commemorate the Maine Small Business Development Centers 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - marking thirty years of Maine SBDC’s helping Maine’s small businesses succeed. The Symposium is featuring:*

- *A Morning Plenary Session with Steven S. Little, renowned speaker, accomplished author and senior consultant to Inc. Magazine, on 21st Century Strategies for Building One’s Company and Tom Stemberg, office superstore pioneer, founder and*

*chair emeritus, Staples Inc., and named by Inc. Magazine as one of America's 25 most fascinating entrepreneurs, on “Doing It Right!”.*

- *The Maine SBDC 30th Anniversary Commemorative Video featuring Maine small business owners representing the very significant importance of small business to Maine’s economy.*
- *A motivational Lunch & Learn Program for small business owners and the USM community, and an Invitational Awards Luncheon for Maine SBDC stakeholders and award winners, including an address by Governor John Baldacci.*
- *The Maine SBDC "30" Awards to thirty Maine small businesses who “tried and succeeded”.*
- *One Incredible Afternoon – Ready... Set... Grow!: an intensive hands-on workshop on the seven irrefutable rules of business growth, presented by INC. Magazine and the Maine SBDC.*

*The Symposiums is being sponsored in part by Bangor Savings Bank.*

**About Maine Small Business Development Centers:** *Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC) and its tech-focus group, Maine Small Business & Technology Development Centers (Maine SBTDC) provide comprehensive business management assistance training, resource and information services to Maine’s micro, small and technology-based business communities. Business assistance is provided at no cost to business owners by professional certified business counselors who meet rigorous education and business experience standards.*

*Maine SBDC/SBTDC is a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in association with the SBA/OSBDC, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (Maine DECD), the University of Southern Maine (USM), and leading economic and/or community development hosting organizations, including the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), and the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC); with support from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) and other co-hosts, contractors, allies and stakeholders.*

*Accredited by the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) and administered by USM’s School of Business, Maine SBDC/SBTDC operates a network of 12 service centers and numerous outreach offices located conveniently throughout the state.*

*More information about the Maine SBDC/SBTDC can be found at [www.mainesbdc.org](http://www.mainesbdc.org).*