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**Maine Small Business Development Center Business Counselor
Chosen “Women in Business Advocate 2004”**

Gregory A. Gould from Manchester has received the “Women in Business Advocate 2004” award from the Maine office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Gould, a certified business counselor for the Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC), was commended for his work this past year counseling 159 women entrepreneurs, helping to launch 39 new women-owned businesses, and supporting \$3.3 million in capital formation for women.

Gould, who works at the Maine SBDC Auburn office located at the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, received the honor at the SBA’s May 25 annual Awards Celebration in Bangor. U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine), who chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, joined Maine SBA District Director Mary McAleney in Bangor to congratulate Gould. “I’m honored and I’m thrilled,” said Gould of the award, adding “It is a privilege to be able to help people and to assist in making their dreams come true.”

Gould has worked for Maine SBDC for almost three years. He has 12 years’ experience working in business in Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in marketing, sales and management. For three years, he was general sales manager for his family’s automobile dealership in Waterville. Gould has a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the University of Rhode Island. Gould has extensive experience in strategic planning and employee management.

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/SBDC, 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), the University of Maine (UMaine), and other 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 11 service centers and 25 outreach offices located conveniently throughout the state. Maine SBDC/SBTDC provides comprehensive business management assistance, training, resource and information services to Maine's micro, small, and technology-based business communities.

Maine SBDC/SBTDC's mission is to engage itself and others in development activities that contribute to the improvement of the economic climate for and the success of micro, small, and technology-based businesses in the State of Maine. Its focus is to assist in the creation, growth and maintenance of viable small businesses and the jobs these businesses provide. Maine SBDC/SBTDC serves those seeking assistance who are willing and able to build, sustain, and/or expand their business.

More information about the Maine SBDC/SBTDC can be found at www.mainesbdc.org.

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