

# Georgia SBA Small Business Week Winners Honored

ATLANTA – The Georgia District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is pleased to announce this year’s award recipients for the Georgia Small Business Week awards program. Recipients were formally recognized at the annual Small Business Week awards luncheon hosted by the Georgia Quality Lenders Circle (GLQC) on May 4<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta. The winners were also invited to participate in the National Small Business Week celebration that took place on the Georgia Tech Campus on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Georgia Small Business Person of the Year, Catherine Downey, was also honored at our nation’s capital the day before to kick off National Small Business Week at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Each year since 1963, the President has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of Small Business Week. This year, National Small Business Week was held May 2-6. "National Small Business Week is a perfect opportunity to take time to celebrate the achievements of the small business community." says Terri Denison, SBA Georgia District Director. "Here in Georgia we are honored to recognize entrepreneurs from the Georgia small business community; champions from across the state."

"This annual awards luncheon is a highly anticipated event for the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle (GLQC) and the opportunity to witness the spirit of entrepreneurship in the small business community across the state of Georgia. I can personally attest to the pride and excitement of this tradition, says Kevin Thurmond, Chairman, GLQC. On behalf of the members of the GLQC, we congratulate the 2016 Small Business Week winners as well as all of the nominees and we congratulate the achievements of the small business community."

The winners of the 2016 Georgia Small Business Week Awards are:  
(Award bios are attached)

## **Small Business Person of the Year**

Catherine A. Downey, CEO  
CATMEDIA  
3776 La Vista Road, Suite 200  
Tucker, GA 30084-5648

## **Georgia Exporter of the Year**

Carl A. Hazenberg, Partner/Chief Engineer  
Everlast Synthetic Products, LLC  
1000 Wyngate Pkwy, S – 100  
Woodstock, GA 30189

**Women’s Business center of Excellence Award**

Maria Peck  
ACE Women’s Business Center  
10 College Street Norcross, GA 30071

**LGBT Small Business Champion**

Jack Kinley – CEO and Founder  
1440 Dutch Valley Place, Suite 770  
Atlanta, GA 30324

**Family Owned Small Business**

Seimitsu Corporation  
Seimitsu Cook  
1523 Bull Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

**Veteran’s Small Business Champion**

Holly Hutson  
Small Business Liaison Officer  
Amec Foser Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.  
1105 Lakewood Parkway, Suite 300  
Alpharetta, GA 30009

**Financial Services Champion**

Melinda Coker  
460 South Enota Drive  
Gainesville GA 30501

**Minority Business Champion**

Tisha Tallman, President & CEO  
Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
99 West Paces Ferry Road, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30305

**Women in Business Champion**

Rachel Davis, Executive Director  
The Edge Connection  
KSU Center

3333 Busbee Drive, Suite 415  
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

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