

For immediate release

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Local woman recognized by U.S. Small Business Administration as Women in Business Champion of the year for a nine state region.

Every year since 1963, the President has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the strength and economic well-being of America. Each year, the U.S. Small Business Administration also recognizes the special impact made by outstanding small business owners, and by *champions* of America's entrepreneurs.

Small Business Champion Award winners are selected at the state, district and national levels. The Women in Business Champion of the Year is one of the awards given to individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership. Some of the requirements to be nominated are advocacy of the women-owned business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement. And improving the environment for the creation and expansion of businesses owned and operated by women.

Danette Richards, director of small business development at the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, has been named by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 2008 Region IV Women in Business Champion.

Richards serves on the Women's Business Center Advisory Council, working with the center staff to develop and present programming on issues affecting women business owners. Ms. Richards has actively supported legislation designed to support small businesses, in particular women-owned businesses, leading to the passage of legislation to make the Women's Business Center Program a permanent program of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Richards was presented with the award at the Women's Business Center's 6th Annual SAL Awards Client Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the Ashbury Suites Hotel in Mobile.

For more information about the Women's Business Center, women in business or the US Small Business Administration contact the Women's Business Center at 660-2725 or info@womenbiz.biz.

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