

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Beth Butler, 256-704-0422**

### **SBA Names WBCNA's Joanne Randolph "2007 Women in Business Champion of the Year"**

**HUNTSVILLE, AL]** - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has selected Joanne Randolph as the 2007 Women in Business Champion of the Year for the State of Alabama and the six-state region (Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, and Florida). This prestigious award was presented to Ms. Randolph on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at a reception for the *Society of 75* supporters of the Women's Business Center of North Alabama (WBCNA) at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. [

As Executive Director of the WBCNA, Ms. Randolph's primary responsibility is to counsel women, and men, who come to the Center for business development assistance. In addition to providing training, and coaching for the clients, she is able to help the clients apply for and receive funding through the SBA Community Express Loan Program. Through her tireless efforts and passion for entrepreneurs, she has helped clients in North Alabama obtain more than \$1,500,000 in small business loans.

Small Business Champion awards are made to individuals or organizations dedicated to supporting small businesses at the state, regional and national levels. The Women in Business Champion of the Year award is made to individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership. Selection is made on the following criteria:

- Active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses.
- Efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women.
- Legal, financial or managerial assistance provided to enhance women's business ownership.

- Voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community.
- Advocacy of the women-owned business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
- Other accomplishments demonstrating effectiveness in improving the environment for the creation and expansion of businesses owned and operated by women.

The Women's Business Center of North Alabama is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to help women, and men, achieve their greatest potential and generate economic growth for the region. This is accomplished by serving as a focal point for information and access to resources; facilitating self-discovery and personal development; and providing a formal mentoring process to support, nurture and advocate the development of their business. For more information about the organization, please visit [www.wbcna.org](http://www.wbcna.org) or call 256-213-2727.

####



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement  
with the U.S. Small Business Administration.