



# News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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## **Southeast Regional Winners Announced for 2017 Small Business Week**

### *Winners to be formally recognized Across the Southeast During National Small Business Week*

**ATLANTA** – Elliott O. Cooper, Acting Regional Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s Region IV, is proud to announce the 2017 winners of SBA’s Regional Small Business Week Awards. “Last week SBA Administrator Linda McMahon announced the Small Business Persons of the Year that were selected from each state across the country and today, we are honored to highlight regional small business champions that are making significant changes for the entrepreneurial landscape across the Southeast,” says Elliott O. Cooper, Acting Regional Administrator.

The following winners are being recognized as regional winners during National Small Business Week:

#### **Region IV 8(a) Graduate of the Year Award**

Andrew “Andy” Harold, President  
A. Harold and Associates, LLC  
Jacksonville, Florida

#### **Region IV Exporter of the Year**

Aviator Brewing Company  
Mark David Doble  
Fuquay-Varina, NC

#### **Region IV Prime Contractor of the Year**

Jonathan Chionchio, President  
USA Environmental, Inc.  
Oldsmar, Florida

#### **Region IV Small Business Development Center Excellence & Innovation Center Award**

Myrtle Beach Area Small Business Development Center  
Located at Coastal Carolina University

#### **Region IV Subcontractor of the Year**

Neeta Singh, President, CEO & Owner  
Tiger Controls, Inc.

Greensboro, NC

**Region IV Women's Business Center of Excellence Award**

WeVenture

Erica Lemp, Executive Director

Melbourne, FL

Region IV of the SBA includes nine district offices located in eight states: Alabama, Florida (North & South Florida districts), Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Last fiscal year, over \$5 billion in SBA-backed lending was approved for small businesses located in the Southeastern Region.

Each year since 1963, the president has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. National Small Business Week is set as the first week in May, and this year the dates are April 30 – May 6 with national events planned in Washington, D.C., New York City, Indianapolis, Dallas and Fresno, Calif. Local events will be held across the Southeast as well to celebrate National Small business Week and to honor the small business champions located in each of the respective states located in Region IV. The regional awards will be presented during the local events. Please contact your local SBA district office more information on the local events [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

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**About the Small Business Administration**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and since January 13, 2012 has served as a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)