



PRESS OFFICE

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Contact: Ryan.Brissette@sba.gov, 401-528-4630

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The SBA Announces the 2020 Rhode Island Small Business Week Awardees

PROVIDENCE – The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) has announced the 2020 Rhode Island Small Business Week Awardees. This year's winners are led by the Rhode Island Small Business Persons of the Year, Harmony Oschefski and Cedar Hwang, owners of the Bodhi Spa in Newport, along with the five New England regional winners and six state-level awardees.

Historically, Small Business Week is observed in early May but due to the risk of COVID-19 and state guidelines for social distancing the annual event was postponed.

"The small business community here in Rhode Island is one of the greatest in the country," said SBA District Director Mark S. Hayward. "These businesses have demonstrated a creativity, business acumen, staying power, and success needed to rise to the top of the business world. They have also displayed the intuition and resiliency in this post-COVID world to pivot their business plans and find new and inventive ways to keep their products and services relevant and marketable. These men and women are the true embodiment of entrepreneurship and and the Rhode Island motto; Hope."

The 2020 Rhode Island Small Business Week Awardees are:

RHODE ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Harmony Oschefski, Owner Cedar Hwang, Owner

The bodhi spa

Newport

Nominator: Josh Daly, RI SBDC

RHODE ISLAND & NEW ENGLAND SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER

Joseph Janson, CEO

NVTS Night Vision Technology Solutions LLC

Jamestown

Nominators: Linda Woulfe, John H. Chafee Center for International Business

RHODE ISLAND & NEW ENGLAND FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION
Angela Laperriere, AVP, Business Assistance Manager & Lending Officer

SEED Corporation

Taunton

Nominator: Tamarah Bacon, Pawtucket Credit Union

RHODE ISLAND & NEW ENGLAND SMALL BUSINESS MANUFACTURER

Michael Black, President

National Marker Company

North Smithfield

Nominator: Josh Daly, RI SBDC

RHODE ISLAND & NEW ENGLAND MICROENTERPRISE

Rebecca Twitchell, President & Founder

half full, llc

Providence

Nominator: Elizabeth Russo & Karina Wood, 10K Small Businesses

RHODE ISLAND & NEW ENGLAND MINORITY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

Juan Lantigua, President & CEO

The Family Cake

Providence

Nominator: Manuel J. Battle, RI SBDC

RHODE ISLAND HOMEBASED SMALL BUSINESS

Duran & Kristy Searles, Co-Owners/Artists

Painted Karma Custom Designs

Kingston

Nominator: Josh Daly, RI SBDC

RHODE ISLAND JEFFREY BUTLAND FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

Dan Shedd, President

Taylor Box Company

Warren

Nominator: Melissa Travis, RISCPA

RHODE ISLAND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

Adam Batchelder, Owner

Smoke & Squeal BBQ

Pawtucket

Nominators: Amit Basnet, RI SBDC / Pam LaBreche

RHODE ISLAND WOMAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

Janelle Blakely Photopoulos, Owner & Creative Director

Blakely Interior Design

North Kingstown

Nominator: Elizabeth Russo & Karina Wood, 10K Small Businesses

RHODE ISLAND YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

Kaitlyn Szczupak, Owner/President

S & S Transmissions and Auto Repair, Inc.

Tiverton

Self-Nominated

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT DIRECTOR AWARD

Paul DeRoche

Small Business Advocate

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.