Celebrating Women in Business: Award Information and Nomination Criteria

The Prestigious Women in Business awards program highlights the impact of outstanding women entrepreneurs. The awards are an opportunity to celebrate their efforts on a statewide stage and to say thank you to the South Dakota women entrepreneurs who have made a significant impact in business, and whose actions exemplify savvy business acumen, integrity, compassion, and commitment to community.

Nominees must be women whose business is located in South Dakota. The four award categories include: The Enterprising Young Entrepreneur, The Enterprising Business Team, The Enterprising Business Woman, and The Enterprising Friend of Small Business.

These awards will be presented at the Celebrating Women in Business Luncheon/Awards on Friday, May 13, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Spearfish, SD. Award recipients must be present.

All nominations will be confidential. Winners will be announced at the luncheon.

Requirements:

- Each nomination narrative should be 250 words or less.
- Two (2) references are required for each nomination.
- References will be asked a standard list of questions to gather more specific information about the nominee.
- Nominations are to be submitted via the email to Andrea.Bakeberg@bhsu.edu or mailed to: SD CEO, 1200 University St., Unit 9511, Spearfish, SD 57799. Deadline for nominations: Wednesday, April 1, 2016 at 12:00AM MST.
- Nominations should be submitted on behalf of an individual or business.
- Nominations for “The Enterprising Young Entrepreneur”, “The Enterprising Business Team”, and “The Enterprising Business Woman” must meet the Small Business Administration (SBA) definition of a small business: a business must have less than $7 million in average annual receipts.

Categories:

1) The Enterprising Young Entrepreneur

This woman entrepreneur has created a successful business by demonstrating outstanding skill and commitment. This woman:

- has a minimum of 3 years in her current business
- is 35 years or younger as of May 13, 2016
- is a small business entrepreneur
- self-nominations will not be accepted, nominations from fellow business owners, members of the community, trade and professional organizations are welcome
II) The Enterprising Business Team

An individual business owner may nominate her team for their significant contributions to the business. The nominated team:

- is the staff of a woman-owned business with 20 or fewer employees
- has a minimum of seven (7) years in business
- collectively demonstrates outstanding skills and customer service
- self-nominations will be accepted, as well as nominations from fellow business owners, members of the community, trade and professional organizations and customers

III) The Enterprising Business Woman

This dynamic business woman has achieved substantial success in her business and community. This woman:

- is a small business owner or majority owner
- has a minimum of seven (7) years in business
- demonstrates outstanding skill, commitment, and accomplishment, while successfully navigating obstacles
- influences, mentors, and encourages others
- self-nominations will not be accepted; nominations from fellow business owners, members of the community, and trade and professional organizations are welcome

IV) The Enterprising Friend of Small Business

This business is an advocate for the growth and development of small business. This business:

- May be a business of any size
- does not need to be woman-owned
- demonstrates commitment and ongoing support to the success of women-owned businesses
- self-nominations will not be accepted, nominations from fellow business owners, trade and professional organizations and members of the community, are welcome.