



News Release

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**SMALL BUSINESS OWNER DEDICATED TO KEEPING AMERICA SAFE NAMED
2007 SBA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**

HARTFORD, CT – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) named **Lorenzo J. Cabrera**, President and CEO of **Cabrera Services, Inc.** (Cabrera), the 2007 Small Business Person of the Year for the state of Connecticut.

Mr. Cabrera, a resident of East Hampton, receives this recognition for growing a successful, thriving business now focused on protecting the environment, defending the homeland and reducing threats to all American citizens. “Connecticut’s Small Business Person of the Year has worked hard and has positioned his company for the future,” says District Director Bernard M. Sweeney. “Lorenzo Cabrera is an excellent choice and truly deserving of this award. I congratulate him on his accomplishments.”

A small, minority-owned company founded in 1994, Cabrera is now an industry leader in radiological environmental restoration and remedial construction. Headquartered in East Hartford, CT, Cabrera now has field offices in California, Maryland, Missouri, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Washington, providing full service radiological assessment and remediation services for hazardous, toxic, and radioactive contaminants.

Mr. Cabrera’s keen vision, insightful recruiting, and hands-on management have enabled him to grow the company from five employees in 1998, to over 100 employees today. His desire to provide a service to the homeland security initiative enabled him to expand the company’s capabilities to include the war effort and the threat of terrorism. A firm uniquely qualified to perform the challenging and often first-of-its-kind tasks necessary to reduce threats to the public and the environment, from radioactive materials Cabrera ensures a safe environment for our generation and generations to come.

Mr. Cabrera understands and sympathizes with the challenges the disadvantaged face on a day-to-day basis. His passion to give back has led him to develop an educational program, which will provide underprivileged youth with the necessary training and skills to find employment in the environmental field. He has been a contributor to various charitable agencies, volunteered his time to help build safe and affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity, and worked in numerous soup kitchens throughout Connecticut.

Lorenzo Cabrera’s foresight and proactive spirit ensure Cabrera Services, Inc.’s sustainability well into the future, making him Connecticut’s choice for the 2007 Small Business Person of the Year.

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On April 23-24, 2007, Mr. Cabrera will compete with other state small business award recipients for the national award during Small Business Week 2007. Held at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. the two-day celebration will honor individuals and business owners at several major award events. Locally, an awards celebration is planned in May to honor Connecticut's 2007 Small Business Award Winners. For more information, contact Greta Johansson at (860) 240-4672 or Debra Dillon at (860) 240-4654.

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Small businesses have been essential to sustaining our nation's and our state's economic health. Entrepreneurs and advocates play a vital role in the ongoing business development efforts, and their accomplishments are worthy of recognition. The nomination process begins in September of each year and is coordinated by your local SBA office. Visit www.sba.gov/ct for more information.

A complete list of the 2005 Small Business Week award recipients is attached.

2007 SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARD RECIPIENTS

SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR
Lorenzo J. Cabrera, President & CEO
Cabrera Services, Inc.
East Hartford, CT
Nominated by
Robert J. Matthys
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

REGIONAL & DISTRICT AWARD WINNER

VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
Thomas S. Bednarczyk, President & Owner
Silverlining Partners LLC
Naugatuck, CT
Nominated by
Ed Hill – Electric Boat Corporation
Rose Bednarz – Gateway Community College

DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
Josh B. Kovner, Reporter
Hartford Courant
Middletown, CT
Nominated by
Larry McHugh
Middlesex County C of C

MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
James J. Jackson, President & CEO
The Essex Group
Centerbrook, CT
Nominated by
Larry McHugh
Middlesex County C of C

HOME-BASED SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF YEAR
John Henry Waiveris, Owner
Invisible Gold, LLC
Windsor, CT
Nominated by
Jane Garibey
Windsor Chamber of Commerce

DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER OF THE YEAR
Carol P. Wallace, President & CEO
Cooper-Atkins Corporation
Middlefield, CT
Nominated by
Larry McHugh
Middlesex County C of C

FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS OF YEAR
Frank S. Beckerer, Jr., CEO
Beckson Manufacturing Inc.
Bridgeport, CT
Nominated by
Ben Thompson
Beckson Manufacturing, Inc.