



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: April 30, 2009
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news

Contact: Lola Kress Naylor (904) 443-1933
lola.naylor@sba.gov

TOP SBA LENDERS HONORED

Lender Awards Presented by the SBA North Florida District Office in Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Fla.- Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Florida District Office recognized 11 Top SBA Lenders from across North Florida (43 county area) during the 17th Annual Small Business Week Celebration and Lender Awards Luncheon hosted by the Small Business Development Center at UNF at the University Center.

Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, SBA District Director, provided an overview of the opportunities presented by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for small business owners and lenders to over 350 people in attendance. For more information on the Recovery Act, please visit www.sba.gov/recovery.

The Lender Award recipients were recognized for their achievements in SBA lending for Fiscal Year 2008. "We are very pleased to celebrate the tremendous achievements of these top SBA lenders. We hope to see a continued increase of SBA lending through this fiscal year," says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, District Director.

The following lenders received awards at the April 30th event in Jacksonville:

SBA Lenders – Highest Number of 7(a) Loans

Banco Popular	103 Loans
Bank of America	84 Loans
Compass Bank	63 Loans
SunTrust Bank	61 Loans
Regions Bank	39 Loans
First Coast Community Bank	39 Loans

Community Express Lenders

Innovative Bank	160 Community Express Loans
Superior Financial Group	34 Community Express Loans
Borrego Springs Bank	13 Community Express Loans

Certified Development Companies

Highest Number of Loans	Florida Business Development Corporation
Top 1st Mortgage Lender	SunTrust Bank

For more information on the lender awards or on SBA's Programs and Services in North Florida, please contact the SBA North Florida District Office's Lola Kress Naylor at (904) 443-1933 or lola.naylor@sba.gov.

###