



NEWS RELEASE

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**JENNIFER L. SPORZYNSKI AND JOHN E. SCRIBNER
WIN SBA'S MAINE 2008
MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPIONS' AWARD**

Augusta, Maine – Jennifer L. Sporzynski and John E. Scribner, both of StartSmart, Coastal Enterprise, Inc., microenterprise program targeted to refugees and immigrants have received the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 2008 Minority Small Business Champion Award.

StartSmart's mission is to help customers assess the feasibility and viability of their business ideas and develop a business plan. Since virtually all StartSmart customers face linguistic and cultural challenges, John and Jennifer often go above and beyond to address issues that stand in the way of their clients.

Together Scribner and Sporzynski assist clients obtain licenses and permits, program cash registers, work with credit card companies, negotiate leases and tackle myriad of other tasks. As a team, they have developed strategies that specifically address the needs of the New American business owners. They have succeeded despite the internal and external challenges faced by their clients. Over the ten years of this program, StartSmart has worked with 740 clients representing 74 countries and has assisted over 190 businesses.

Scribner and Sporzynski will be honored, along with other awardees, at an awards luncheon in Lewiston on May 16th.

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