

# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
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PORTLAND DISTRICT  
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**The SBA Portland District Office  
Financial Services Champion of the Year  
*Patricia Balius, VP & Operations Manager  
West Coast Bank***



*Patty Balius*

**Portland, Ore.** – SBA Oregon District Director, Harry DeWolf, announces that Patty Balius, Vice President and Operations Manager of West Coast Bank, is the SBA 2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year for the NW region and the state of Oregon. Patty will receive her award at the Oregon SBA's Small Business Week Awards Gala May 22, 2008, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Portland, Oregon. Awards will also be given to the Small Business Person of the Year, the Family-Owned Small Business of the Year and a Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award to a small business development center.

Balius has been supporting small business through the West Coast Bank's SBA program for the past fourteen years. She is an individual that typically is in the background making sure that the program is being implemented properly to ensure the program continues, which allows capital to small businesses.

Balius has been involved in one way or another with every SBA loan that West Coast Bank closes. She has provided coaching, encouragement and advice to a large majority of the bank's customers. Not only does she help with funding and other loan-specific questions, but she provides a sounding board for a number of other issues that come up in the course of operating a small business. She is a walking encyclopedia of resources available to small business owners, not just banking, but in time of need. She's an incredible help to the small business community because of her knowledge and experience.

She becomes a champion for small businesses due to her knowledge and contacts. Without this kind of one-on-one involvement, many of the small businesses would not know who to turn to, especially during the "learning curve" of the first year in business.

For more information on SBA's programs and services, visit our website at [www.sba.gov/or](http://www.sba.gov/or)

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