



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Selects Wisconsin 2007 Small Business Person of the Year Additional State Winners Also Announced

Milwaukee/Madison: The U.S. Small Business Administration has named Adrian Velasquez, President and Christine Krause, Vice President of Fi-Med Management, Inc. in Milwaukee, ‘Wisconsin’s Small Business Person’s of the Year for 2007’.

Fi-Med Management, Inc. offers technology based solutions to medical practices at a national level that provides services that integrate with physicians overall cash management and compliance risk assessment needs. They offer consulting, accounts receivable management, cash management, lock box services and education. Adrian and Christine have created protocols and applied the newest technologies available to automate, enhance and rewrite the way that medical claims are prepared, submitted and paid. A basic medical practice billing process includes the physician seeing the patient and marking an encounter form, next, a billing department keys in the encounter form, next the claim is submitted to the insurance company and the insurance company pays the physician in 90 to 120 days. Fi-Med has automated this process.

Fi-Med’s management’s foundation is built upon a theme of “Excellence is Never an Accident.” They believe in giving people the opportunity to succeed and have hired and maintain a diverse staff of individuals from all areas of the globe to include the United States, Argentina, Mexico, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Senegal, Nigeria, and Southeast Asia.

Adrian and Christine have been featured in medical and accounting journals for their work and have taken every opportunity to share their wisdom with those professionals and business owners who may benefit. They consistently participate in conferences, events and community engagements aimed to better the business environment for other entrepreneurs and the communities they reside in.

Adrian and Christine are among 53 top small business persons—one from each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, and Guam—who will be honored by SBA at national ceremonies in Washington, D.C. April 23-24, 2007. As the winner of the Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year Award, they could be named National Small Business Persons of the Year during the national event.

Page 2, SBA Selects Small Business Person, #07-05

As Wisconsin's Small Business Persons of the Year, Adrian and Christine were judged on their staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service offered, response to adversity and contributions to aid community-oriented projects.

The Wisconsin SBA celebration of our Small Business winners will be held Friday, June 1, 2007 at SBA and SCORE's Awards Presentation Breakfast at Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. For more information, please contact Mary Trimmier at (414) 297-1093 or email her at mary.trimmier@sba.gov.

Wisconsin's SBA District Office also named the state's Small Business Advocates of the Year and special category winners. The following categories and winners are:

Honorable Mention Small Business Persons – John Monnett, Jr., President, Betty Monnett, CFO and Jeremy Monnett, CEO, Sonex Aircraft, Oshkosh

Small Business Exporter – STATE & REGION WINNER Gene Anguil, President, Anguil Environmental Systems, Inc., Milwaukee

Minority Small Business Person of the Year – Jeffrey and Norbert Dretzka-Co-Owners, Underground Pipeline, Inc., New Berlin

Emerging Small Business Person – James Freeman, President, Helicopter Specialities, Inc., Janesville

Minority Small Business Champion – Nelson Soler, President, Latino Entrepreneurial Network, Milwaukee

Financial Services Champion – Barbara Ecklund, CPA, Suby Von Haden Associates, Brookfield

Women in Business Champion – Renee Walz, Western Dairyland, Independence

Small Business Journalist –STATE & REGION WINNER Jody Glynn Patrick, Vice President, Publisher, Radio Journalist, In Business Magazine, Monona

Small Business Legal Assistance – Meghan Shannon, Associate Attorney, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c., Waukesha

Home Based Business Champion – Maggie Foote, Innkeeper, Oaklawn Bed & Breakfast, Menomonie

Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Small Business – Joel Weitz, President, George Vitense Golfland, Inc., Madison

The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contributions to Wisconsin's small business communities.

Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov and Wisconsin's SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi