



NEWS RELEASE

WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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Diana Wallace Named Women in Business Champion of the Year 2008

Casper – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has named Diana Wallace as the Women in Business Champion of the Year 2006. This award will be presented to her on Monday, May 5, 2008, at the Annual Chamber Dinner to be held at the Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre in Casper. Steve Despain, District Director of the Wyoming Small Business Administration, will be presenting Ms Wallace with this award. Diana was nominated by Theresa F. Christensen, Consumer Lending Manager, AVP of First Interstate Bank in Casper.

This award is given to an individual who has advanced women's business ownership. Evaluation criteria include efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women, legal, financial or managerial assistance, voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community and advocacy for the women-owned business community as a whole. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Diana Wallace's career has spanned over 22 years in banking, 10 of those spent in consumer and small business retail banking services and business/consumer lending. Diana understands the pressures, challenges and opportunities for women in business. She is and has through the years been a business advocate. While it's often true that women and men approach the business of running a company differently, women owned and managed businesses require the same financial support as male owned and operated companies. Diana, in her career function, is and has been a specialist in providing solutions and resources to women owners and executives.

Diana has not only aided Women in Small Businesses through financial and service assistance, she has helped to empower women throughout Casper and Natrona County through her active involvement and commitment in the following areas: Wyoming Women's Symposium, Philanthropic Organization that supports women, Downtown Merchants and Professional Association, Women's Roundtables which she has coordinated for over seven years.

Diana truly believes in a woman's right and in most cases natural attribute to be able to lead and direct a business to be a successful enterprise. She has shown to have shared that conviction and belief with those she has interacted with for the past 22 years.

For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-216-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive Website at www.sba.gov/wy.

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