

Institute for Economic Development

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UTSA, Small Business Administration focuses on “Connecting Business with Opportunity” for National Small Business Week

UTSA South-West Texas Border SBDC Network will honor area Small Business Week awardees and will offer educational and lender networking sessions for entrepreneurs.

SAN ANTONIO, April 13, 2018 – As part of UTSA’s mission to engage with its business community, the UTSA South-West Texas Border SBDC Network invites local business owners to attend San Antonio’s Small Business Week: “Connecting Business with Opportunity.”

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has declared National Small Business Week to recognize the important role and contributions of America’s small businesses. This year, National Small Business Week takes place from April 29 – May 5.

In partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA) San Antonio District Office and the UTSA Institute for Economic Development, the South-West Texas Border SBDC Network will highlight the national event during an educational business forum and awards presentation, which will recognize regional entrepreneurs for their achievements, including individuals and organizations who champion small business. A full list of winners is listed below.

The business forum will include eight dynamic small business trainings taught by industry leaders focused on digital advertising, social media marketing, small business financial practices, and SBA resources. Additionally, a networking session will connect entrepreneurs who are interested in accessing capital with active SBA lenders and other business support providers.

- WHAT:** **San Antonio Small Business Week:**
Connecting Business with Opportunity
- WHEN:** Friday, May 4
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** New Braunfels Civic Center
375 S. Casteel Ave., New Braunfels, Texas 78130
- FEE:** \$20 per Individual Ticket
- WEBSITE:** sasmallbusinessweek.org

“National Small Business Week continuously highlights the significant role of business owners and entrepreneurs within the nation’s growing economy. The “Connecting Business with Opportunity” event demonstrates both UTSA’s and the Network’s interest in not only highlighting the successes of the awardees but enriching our business community with new knowledge. We congratulate the 2018 San Antonio Small Business Week award winners for their commitment to growth and impact on the Texas economy,” said **Al Salgado**, executive director of the UTSA South-West Texas Border SBDC Network.

2018 SBA San Antonio District Small Business Week Winners:

Small Business Person of the Year

Linda J. Parks
LWI Custom Cabinets
Lockhart, TX

SCORE Austin Mentor

Doug Kennan

Minority Owned Business of the Year

Stability Staffing
Jennifer E. Delgado
San Antonio, TX

Small Business Champion

Mayor Brenda Gunter
City of San Angelo

Veteran Owned Business

Alpha Facilities Solutions
John Alan Garcia
San Antonio, TX

Financial Services Champion

Gutierrez, Martinez & Co. LLP
Eloy Gutierrez
Laredo, TX

Woman Owned Business of the Year

Avant Garde, LLC
Rebecca Contreras
Pflugerville, TX

Small Business Media Advocate

Living Laredo
Cristina Ofilia Mendoza
Laredo, TX

SBDC Award

Texas A&M International University SBDC
Michael Gonzalez
Laredo, TX

7(A) Lender

Wells Fargo
136 Units - \$37,544,500
Thomas Garceau

SCORE San Antonio Mentor

Hilton Garnes (Posthumous)

504 Lender

Capital CDC
34 Units - \$28,641,000
Thomas Braasch

About the UTSA Institute for Economic Development

The UTSA Institute for Economic Development is dedicated to growing businesses, creating jobs and fostering economic development. Focused on building the economy one business at a time, the Institute consists of 9 centers and programs that provide professional business advising, technical training, research and strategic planning for entrepreneurs, business owners and community leaders. These programs serve Greater San Antonio, the Texas-Mexico border area as well as regional, national and international stakeholders. Together with the federal, state and local governments, and private businesses, the UTSA Institute for Economic Development fosters economic and community development in support of UTSA’s community engagement mission. In 2017, the Institute generated direct economic impact of \$1.9 billion, created 7,350 jobs, started 626 new businesses, \$459 million in new financing, \$46 million in new tax revenue and exceeded \$1.3 billion in new sales, exports and contracts. For more information, visit

iedtexas.org