

For Immediate Release

Contact: Shawn Bannon
Allegheny Conference on
Community Development and Affiliates
(412) 281-4783, Ext. 4535
sbannon@alleghenyconference.org

Two Area Small Business Leaders Win Mid-Atlantic Award Recognition

(Pittsburgh, PA – May 23, 2008) Two local small business champions are being recognized for their achievements after beating out competition from six states and the District of the Columbia. Daniel R. Richey, award-winning journalist and managing editor of *The Northside Chronicle*; and Brent G. Rondon, international small business development specialist at Duquesne University, are among those being honored at the Western Pennsylvania Small Business Network's 32nd Annual Small Business Awards luncheon, convened today at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Also leading the group of exemplary small business owners and champions recognized today is the 2008 Pennsylvania Small Business Person of the Year: Joseph Keller, president of Keller Engineers, Inc., headquartered in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

"It's a great pleasure to recognize the exemplary accomplishments of this year's awardees, whose dedication to their work enhances our economy and our communities alike. As an organization committed to opening doors for small business people and their advocates, this ceremony demonstrates the spirit of our daily work in action by those who are truly leading the way," said Carl Knoblock, director of the Pittsburgh District Office for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"We are especially excited to present this year's award ceremony during the region's 250th anniversary year. These awards recognize exceptional small business leaders and champions who embody the same legacy of regional excellence that is at the center of our celebrations throughout 2008," said Mike Langley, chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates.

The 2008 awardees are:

Regional – SBA Region III encompasses the Mid-Atlantic States of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia:

2008 Small Business Journalist Champion of the Year

Daniel R. Richey
Managing Editor
The Northside Chronicle
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2008 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Brent G. Rondon
Manager, Global Business Programs
Duquesne University
Chrysler Corporation Small Business Development Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Statewide:

2008 Small Business Person of the Year

Joseph G. Keller
President
Keller Engineers, Inc.
Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Western Pennsylvania District – encompassing 27 counties:

2008 Women in Business Champion of the Year

Susan K. Breon
President
Center for eBusiness and Advanced IT (eBizITPA)
Erie, Pa.

2008 SCORE Volunteer of the Year

Don Carpenter
District Director
Western Pennsylvania (District 358)
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2008 SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Peter Lambert
Owner, Designer, Fabricator and Blacksmith
Red Star Ironworks
Millvale, Pa.

2008 Financial Services Champion of the Year

Dennis Piper, CPA
Dennis Piper and Associates, P.C.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2008 Family-Owned Business of the Year

J. Eric Sauereisen/C. Karl Sauereisen
President/Vice President
Sauereisen
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2008 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Alan G. Smith
Field Representative
(Office of U.S. Representative Mike Doyle)
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2008 Woman-Owned Business of the Year

Amy Veltri
President and CEO
Novel Geo-Environmental, LLC
Bridgeville, Pa.

The Western Pennsylvania Small Business Network (WPSBN) is made up of local Small Business Development Centers, Chambers of Commerce and other local resource partners that promote small business interests. This afternoon, Carl Knoblock, along with Dr. Mary McKinney, chair of the WPSBN will detail the momentum behind the region's small businesses, while Dennis Yablonsky, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, will share his insights on the direction of business growth and development on a regional and statewide level.

Sponsors of this year's event are: Dollar Bank, *Dynamic Business* magazine, First Commonwealth, National City, Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, Regional Development Fund Corporation, Western Pennsylvania Association of SBA Guaranteed Lenders, Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Banco Popular North America, Chamber Choice, CL Fund and SMC Insurance Agency, Inc.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.alleghenyconference.org.

###