

Press Release

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SBDC at UCF Honors 2010 Florida Small Business Award Winners

Orlando, FL-Wednesday, May 29, 2010. The Small Business Development Center at University of Central Florida and its Small Business Resource Network program hosted a Small Business Award Luncheon at the Citrus Club in downtown Orlando on Tuesday, May 18, honoring the SBA 2010 District and State Small Business Person of the Year- Waymon Armstrong, and the SBA 2010 Financial Services Champion of the Year – Chris Hurn.

Waymon Armstrong, president and CEO, Engineering & Computer Simulations, Inc., (ECS) was awarded the 2010 Florida Small Business Person of the Year Award. Since its inception in 1997, Armstrong has led ECS in delivering innovative PC-based game technology through advanced distributed learning environments. Since 2007, ECS has used virtual world technologies and has become a leader in delivering virtual world solutions to its customers.

Chris Hurn, CEO and co-founder, Mercantile Capital Corporation (MCC), was awarded the 2010 Florida Financial Services Champion Award. MCC is a nationwide, non-bank commercial lending firm specializing in provided the highest cash-on-cash return financing for business owners and entrepreneurs buying their commercial property. MCC has appeared on the Inc. 500/5000 list of America's fastest growing companies for the past three years. To date, MCC has funded over \$463.8 million in total project costs in 35 states.

More than 60 guests and previous award winners honored the two businessmen for their accomplishments. Both winners are from Florida's 24th District. In recognition of this, special guest, Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas delivered opening remarks at the ceremony. The awards, which are part of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Week Celebration, were presented by U.S SBA-Jacksonville Deputy District Director, Ralph Ross.



(Photo Attached: Left to Right - Chris Hurn, Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas, Waymon Armstrong, Eunice Choi, regional director-SBDC at UCF, Ralph Ross, deputy district director-U.S. SBA-Jacksonville

Small Business Success Starts Here

Press Release



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With its main office in the Disney Entrepreneur Center in Downtown Orlando, the SBDC at UCF is part of the UCF College of Business Administration and the Florida Small Business Development Center Network, providing business seminars and free one-on-one business consultation to small business owners. The SBDC at UCF serves an eight-county area that includes Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia counties and maintains six satellite service centers. In 2009, the SBDC at UCF helped entrepreneurs create or retain 1,627 jobs, win contract awards worth \$31.4 million, acquire \$14.8 million in capital formation, and increase sales by \$31.7 million. The SBDC at UCF is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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