



U.S. Small Business
Administration

SBA News

2019 National Small Business Week Winners



SBA Indiana presented the awards at a joint luncheon with the Indiana SBDC May 9th. Click on tabs below to learn more about each winner.



SBA National, Great Lakes Region and Indiana 8(a) Graduate of the Year

Prairie Quest Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana

Stacey Smith, President/CEO

[Stacey's Story](#)



SBA Indiana Small Business Person of the Year

NinjaZone/Wright's Gymnastics, Greenwood, Indiana

Casey Wright, President/CEO

[Casey's Story](#)



SBA Indiana Exporter of the Year

B2S Life Science, Franklin, Indiana

Aleks Davis, CEO

[The B2S Life Sciences Story](#)



SBA Indiana Family Owned Business of the Year

Tom's Marine Sales., Crawfordsville, Indiana

Tom Shaver, founder; Ken & Lori Shaver

[The Tom's Marine Sales Story](#)

SBA offers new learning opportunity for woman-owned businesses



Ever wish you could have on-demand access to the information you need to grow your business to the next level? SBA is committed to helping to meet that need with the development of innovative new resources. That's why the agency is creating Ascent, an online learning platform that utilizes a modern, e-learning approach specifically targeted for women business owners who want to grow their businesses. All content has been developed backed by research on the needs of women business owners.

The SBA is seeking input on this new product offering. They're looking for women business owners to participate in product beta testing to ensure that Ascent is a useful, helpful and reliable product that meets the needs of female business owners. The testing will kick off in early June and is expected to take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

If you would be interested in participating in product beta testing for Ascent, please click below. Enter your email and zip code to receive an invitation to the beta test in June.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to contribute your feedback!

[Ascent Learning](#)

**SBA MaTCH Competition seeks to help
makerspace communities train a new workforce**



7/8
SUBMISSION
DEADLINE

MaTCH
The Makerspace Training, Collaboration
and Hiring Pilot Competition

Enter for a chance to win up to \$200K
sba.gov/match



SBA Acting Administrator Chris Pilkerton has announced the launch of the **Makerspace Training, Collaboration and Hiring (MaTCH) Pilot Competition**. The MaTCH Pilot Competition seeks to address the job skills and [placement gaps faced by U.S. businesses](#) by providing funding to create or expand programs with job-specific and soft skills training within existing makerspaces. The SBA believes that existing makerspaces are uniquely positioned to help increase workforce development in U.S. cities of our nation's workforce.

"In today's booming economy, our nation's employers are searching for qualified workers to fill the increasing amount of positions currently available," said Acting Administrator Chris Pilkerton. "The MaTCH Pilot Competition reaffirms the SBA commitment to supporting new forms of vocational education, developing apprenticeships, independent work, and cultivating access to entrepreneurship. This pilot competition will help empower a stronger connection between the maker's community and job creation, and ultimately provide an added economy boost to communities across our nation."

[The MaTCH Pilot Competition](#) challenges individual organizations or teams to utilize existing makerspaces to create or expand programs that provide the job-specific and soft skills training within existing makerspaces, including industry or trade certifications when feasible. The goal is to have all program graduates immediately placed in positions with previously identified employers that are in need of skilled labor. The SBA will award up to \$1 million in total prizes to fund selected winning proposals.

To enter, applicants must submit a business plan that, among other things, details their team's qualifications, experience, and resources; the proposed training curriculum; the nature and length of the training/certification program; and the number of trainees that will be accommodated.

Submission Period: May 21, 2019 to July 8, 2019

Winners Announced: August 6, 2019

Click below for the MaTCH Pilot Competition entry form, rules and requirements. Good luck!

[MaTCH Pilot Competition](#)

Workshops

Business Start-Up 101 - Indianapolis

WHEN: June 6, 3 pm

WHERE: SBA Indiana District Office, 8500 Keystone Crossing, Suite 400, Indianapolis

LINK: bit.ly/Biz101Jun

Funding Options for Small Business - Indianapolis

WHEN: June 27

WHERE: SBA Indiana District Office, 8500 Keystone Crossing, Suite 400, Indianapolis

LINK: bit.ly/FundOpsJun

Indiana Loan Approvals

Through April 30, 2019



SBA now offers customized local emails for small business owners like you! To receive info about SBA-related training and events exclusively in your area, take a moment to input your zip code at www.sba.gov/updates .

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<u>Economic Development Specialist</u>	<u>Sharon Harvey</u>	<u>ext. 123</u>
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