



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Announces Fourteen New Graduates from Emerging Leaders Entrepreneurship Training Program

Fresno, CA - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in collaboration with the Strong Cities Strong Communities Initiative in Fresno announces that fourteen local small business entrepreneurs have successfully completed the 2013 Emerging Leaders program. A graduation ceremony will be held at the Fresno SBA office located at 801 R Street, Suite 201, Fresno on October 29th at 3:00 pm.

The fourteen entrepreneur graduates gave their final presentations last week, before a panel comprised of local business consultants, business executives, entrepreneurs, and bankers. This was their final step before completing the seven month Emerging Leaders Program, an executive level MBA style development and training course based on the nationally acclaimed StreetWise Steps™ curriculum which was offered to local promising small business entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The program was brought to Fresno by SBA for the third year due in part to the City being designated as a Strong Cities, Strong Communities City.

“This program has a proven track record for expanding opportunities for promising small businesses and creating jobs in underserved communities,” Fresno SBA District Director Carlos Mendoza said. “The fourteen business entrepreneurs who graduated the Emerging Leaders program now have the skills, information, and tools they need to grow their businesses, increase their profits, and add new employees. Previous surveys of past Emerging Leaders classes show dramatic business gains for graduates. SBA is pleased to have provided this opportunity to help these fourteen local businesses,” said Mendoza. The 2013 Emerging Leaders graduates are:

Deena Papagni - A Touch of Class Transportation, Inc., Madera

Lil Villagomez - American Floors & Interiors, Oakhurst

Jon Reelhorn - Belmont Nursery, Fresno

Mark Chu - Big Realty, Fresno

Ronald Heskett - Borga Steel Buildings & Components, Fowler

Thom Miller - Bullard Uniforms Inc., Fresno

David B. Hernandez - DBHCPM, Inc., Fresno

Samuel Shima - Gymnastics Beat, Inc, Fresno.

Vickie Goudreau - Innovation Commercial Flooring, Fresno

John Tapia - Magnetar.us, Inc., Fresno

Arthur Moye - MBS Accountancy Corporation, Fresno

James McCann - McCann and Sons Hay Service, Lemoore

Vanessa McCracken - Sunnyside Bicycles, Fresno

Michael LaRue - Valley Coffee, Fresno