



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Awards Illinois Entrepreneur as 2018 National Small Business Person of the Year

Entrepreneur from West Virginia Named 1st Runner-up

WASHINGTON – [Linda McMahon, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration](#) today recognized and awarded this year's [Small Business Person of the Year](#) at a ceremony and reception at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

“It is my pleasure to announce that Rebecca Fyffe, the owner and Director of Research of Landmark Pest Management from Schaumburg, Illinois is this year’s national Small Business Person of the Year,” Administrator McMahon said. “Rebecca took over a struggling business in 2001 when she was 25 years old; one of only a few women in the industry and the youngest pest control company CEO in the country. Since then, her company has prospered under her leadership, growing from 18 to 70 full-time employees with substantial revenue growth.”

In addition to the national Small Business Person of the Year, a West Virginia company was recognized and awarded as First Runner Up:

First Runner-up

Douglas Tate

President & CEO

Alpha Technologies, Inc.

Hurricane, West Virginia

Douglas Tate joined the U.S. Army directly out of high school. He served with distinction for nine years including time in a special infantry unit where he saw action on the front lines. During his military career he studied data communications and engineering. Tate was forced into medical retirement from a service-related injury, but the skills he learned while enlisted helped him become a critical thinker and shaped his path to entrepreneurship.

Alpha Technologies, formed in 2000, is a business technology focused company providing comprehensive solutions to allow clients to focus on business growth while Alpha manages their technology. The company staffs more than 40 employees, serves 10 states and 17 countries.

“Douglas used many SBA programs and services, leading to VA certification as a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business; a grant from the Governor’s Guaranteed Workforce; Federal Acquisition Management training; and a \$4.8 million SBA international trade loan to build a 35-mile high-capacity

fiber ring around Charleston, West Virginia,” SBA Regional Administrator Michelle Christian remarked. “We’re proud of Douglas and are glad to be a part of his successful entrepreneurial journey.”

Administrator McMahon personally recognized and awarded all the state and territorial winners. She also commended them for their hard work, innovative ideas and dedication to their employees and communities.

To learn more about National Small Business Week and read the bios on all the winners please visit <https://www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week>.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start and grow their businesses. It delivers services to people through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov/.