

# NYS SBDC Hall of Fame

**Karen Hartgen**  
Hartgen Archeological Associates  
A cultural resource management firm  
Albany SBDC at the University at Albany

The company has completed more than 2,000 cultural studies at historic sites such as highway, bridge, canal, utility, landfill, subdivision, commercial, and cemetery projects throughout New York and New England.

**Howard Hellman**  
All Bright Electric  
Electrical contracting company  
Westchester SBDC at Mercy College

The client says that hiring key professionals was key to his company's success. The company is licensed and working in Rockland, Westchester, Orange, and Berge (NJ) Counties, and has agreements with IBEW locals in the tri-state area.

**Liz Hughes-Carla Bruce-Marie McKenna**  
Laurel Ave Café Corporation  
Operate several Lost Dog Café restaurants in Binghamton and Ithaca  
Binghamton SBDC at SUNY Binghamton

The partners' goal was to create a friendly comfortable meeting place for students and young professionals. One partner operates the Binghamton café, another the Ithaca café, and the third manages the catering part of the business. The lost dog, a Chihuahua that went missing while the partners were opening the first store, was eventually found.

**Michael Jelfo -Roger Reiner-Jeff Genovese**  
Pro-Mold Inc.  
Custom mold manufacturer  
Brockport SBDC at SUNY Brockport

The partners persevered through a complicated merger process that involved county and state agencies, lenders, and the SBDC to become an industry leader. Pro-Mold is a tier-one custom mold maker and global supplier to such Fortune 500 customers as Eastman Kodak Company, Xerox Corporation, and Bausch and Lomb Inc.

**Loretta Kaminsky**  
Lou-Retta's Custom Chocolates  
Sweet and salty gourmet snacks and gift baskets  
Buffalo SBDC at Buffalo State University

The client was the first in the US with a three-dimensional chocolate rose. This cancer-survivor and her daughter developed a unique line of chocolate products and established themselves as innovators in the chocolate industry. The client sold her company to a larger chocolatier in 2003, but continues to promote her signature products with appearances on the Home Shopping Network and at major department stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue.

**Khalid and Bia Kahn**  
Chautauqua Woods and Ultrapak  
Custom wooden doors & entryways and flexible packaging materials  
Jamestown SBDC at Jamestown Community College

The clients are so proud of their work,

they name all their doors after local towns throughout Chautauqua County. They have become successful in the global marketplace because of their commitment to quality and innovative marketing techniques. In 2003, the SUNY Fredonia Business Club named the clients their Businesspersons of the Year.

**Rosa Kasperovich**  
Rose's Funeral Home, Inc.  
Funeral business  
Stony Brook SBDC at SUNY Stony Brook

The client fulfilled a lifelong dream to open a funeral home for African Americans in her community. She is a licensed funeral director with 25 years of experience in the industry, and is committed to serving the community with profoundly personal service.

**Brent LaMour and Shawn Goff**  
Salem Organic Soils  
Peat moss producer  
Mid-Hudson SBDC at Ulster Community College

The clients transform horse manure and natural organic materials into Sweet Peet, a totally organic fertilizer. The company continues to grow through licensed franchises in other states.

**Daryl Kolanko**  
Potsdam Agway  
Retail farm and garden store  
Canton SBDC at SUNY Canton

The client, an individual with a strong commitment to the community saved a store that had been a focal point in the area for



more than 40 years when Agway Inc. decided to sell 160 retail stores. While other retailers closed and left the area the client's store continues to thrive and employ more than 14 North County citizens.

**William Levine**  
W.L. Concepts and Production, LLC  
Graphics and signage design  
Farmingdale SBDC at SUNY Farmingdale

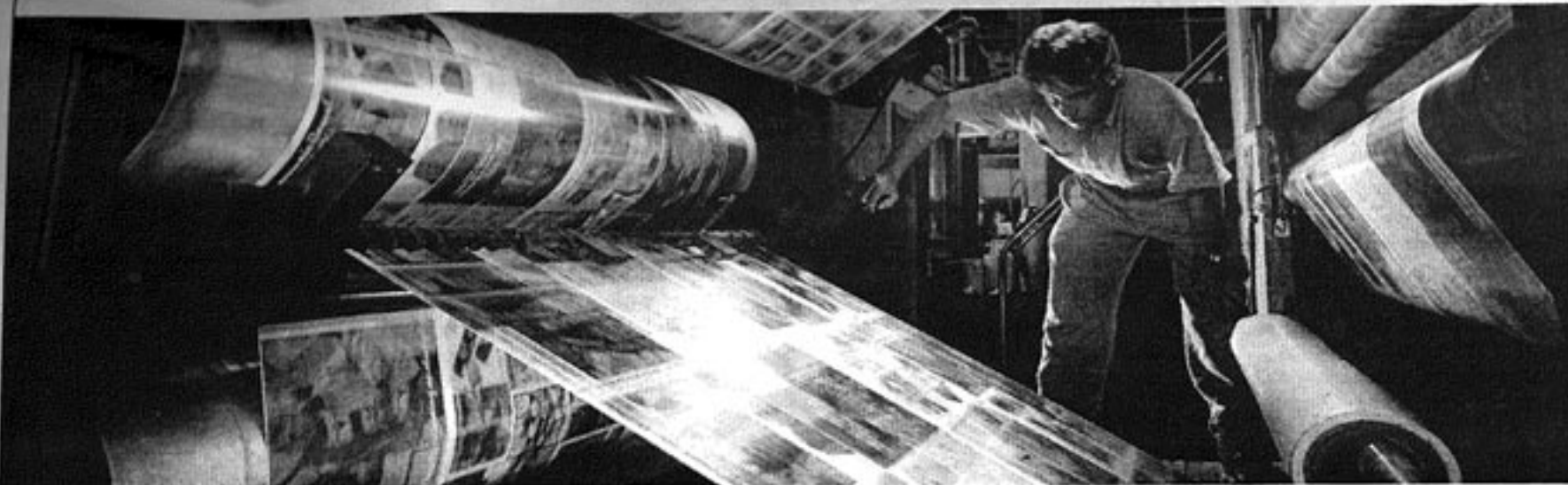
When the client was laid off after working 20 years for a major design and graphics company, he decided to start his own company. Within the first year he won a large contract with the major men's clothing line, a larger contract to remodel the foyers of 35 bank branches, and his business outgrew its space.

**Louis and Kathleen Ligouri**  
Pearl Rose, Inc.  
Childcare learning centers  
Stony Brook SBDC at Stony Brook University

The clients provide early childhood edu-

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SBDC Client Hall of Fame Inductees.


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