

SBDC Twentieth-Anniversary Celebration & Hall of Fame



Late in March 2004, the NYS SBDC celebrated 20 years of service to small business owners and entrepreneurs in New York with a gala event in the well of the Legislative Office Building at Empire State Plaza in Albany.

The highlight of the Albany event was the formal induction of 32 outstanding New York Small Businesses into the NYS SBDC Hall of Fame. The approximately 30 New York legislators that attended the event made special presentations to the Hall of Fame members. All of the inductees were clients of the SBDC who have made a long-term success of their businesses, as well as significant economic and/or public service contributions to their communities. The SBDC measures its success one entrepreneur at a time, and Hall of Fame inductees were the stars of the evening.

Inductees received framed color photos of themselves at their place of business, a plaque honoring their accomplishments, and business-management software from Microsoft. For a complete listing of 2004 Hall of Fame Inductees, see page 29.

The host for the event was New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno. Sponsors included: Fleet Bank, Key Bank, First Niagara, Intuit, and Nowicki and Company.

In connection with the Albany event, Regional Centers across the state held Open Houses throughout the year to mark the program's 20th anniversary. These regional events featured noteworthy speakers and attendees that included campus officials, local legislators, SBDC clients, and resource partners.

On March 22, 2004, eight pages of *The Legislative Gazette* were devoted to the program. The text and pictures in the special section highlighted the programs and services the NYS SBDC has provided to small business between 1984 and 2004.



From left, George Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, State Senator Frank Padavan, Diego Rodriguez

From left, Assemblyman Joseph Saladino, William Levine

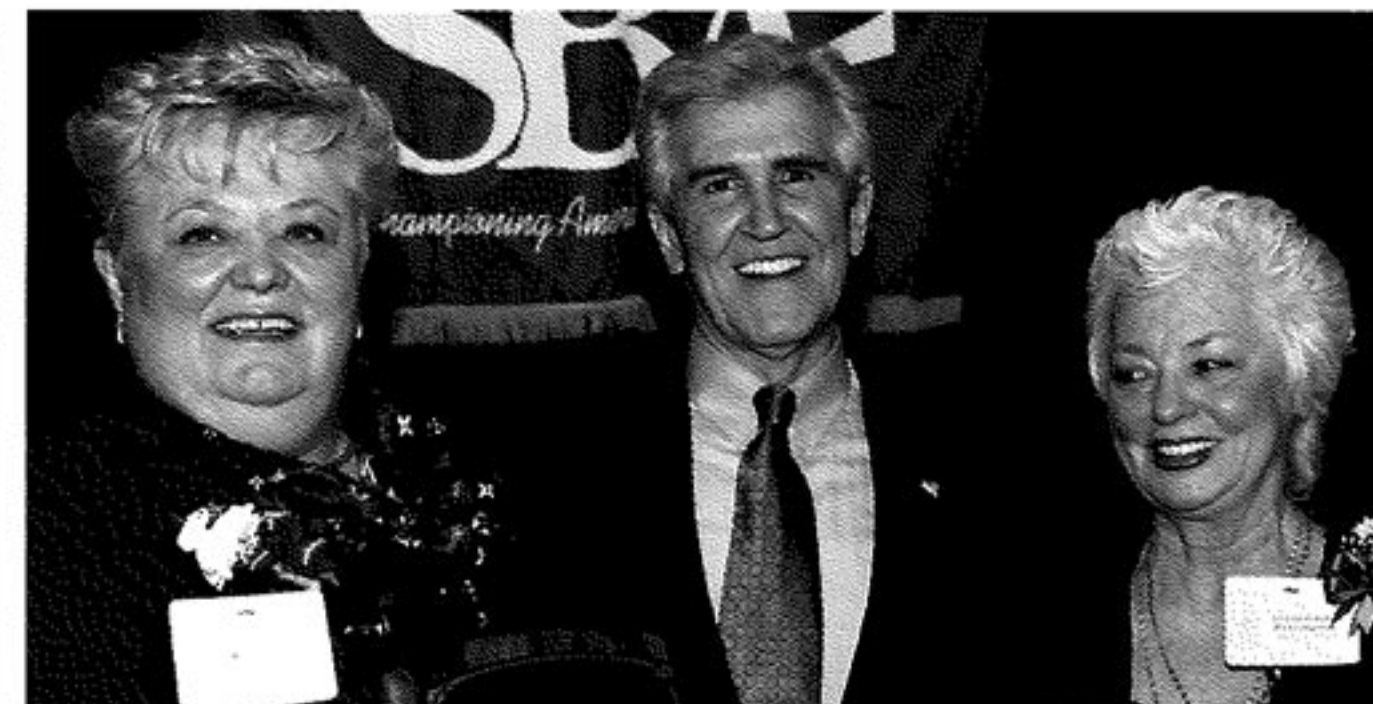


From left, Business Adviser Dale Rice, State Senator James Wright, Walter Planty, Donna Planty, and Diana Goolden

From left, Karen Hartgen, NY Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Ursula Garreau-Rickenbacher



From left, Peggy Swigonski, State Senator Raymond Meier, Robert Swigonski



From left, Pat McGee, Bia & Khalid Khan, Assemblyman William Parment