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***For Immediate Release, nominations due Aug. 2***

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### ***SBDC seeking E-Day nominations***

**Crown Point, IN** – Danny Jones, 2009 Small Business Person of the Year, sees the E-Day Awards as a way to push the next generation.

“Honoring entrepreneurs is a great way of saying ‘Look what you can do, if you step out, make the best of an opportunity and work real hard.’ Let that be a challenge to the next person or generation looking to find their own way in the business world,” said Jones, president of Security Industries Inc. in Hobart.

The NWI Small Business Development Center is looking for the new generation of small business owners and champions who are making a mark on the region. Nominations for the 2010 Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards are now being accepted through Aug. 2.

Categories include Small Business Person of the Year, Entrepreneurial Success, Small Business Advocate of the Year, Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Minority Small Business Person of the Year and Women in Business Champion of the Year. Additional award and criteria details and the E-Day nominations packet are available at [www.nwisbdc.org](http://www.nwisbdc.org).

The winners are chosen by the awards selection committee comprised of individuals from the banking, accounting, legal, business and economic development communities. Finalists are selected based on a ranking of compiled scores.

Honorees will be recognized Tuesday Oct. 19 at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza. Tim Smithe of Walter E. Smithe furniture stores will be the guest speaker.

The event is an opportunity for community and business leaders to join together to celebrate the winners’ accomplishments.

“E-Day provides a specialized arena to commend the honorees’ efforts and inspire and push them toward future achievements,” said Todd Dickard, NWI SBDC business advisor and E-Day committee member.

“Dedicating time to observe the winners’ successes holds even more weight as we continue to face the current economic climate.”

Serving seven counties in the region, the NWI SBDC offers free assistance for entrepreneurs starting or expanding their businesses. Through one-on-one consulting, the NWI SBDC helps guide small businesses toward their goals by offering referrals, workshops, training opportunities and other essential business tools. It is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Small Business Administration, the State of Indiana and other local partners.

For more information, visit [www.nwisbdc.org](http://www.nwisbdc.org).