

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: **March 25, 2008**
Release Number: **SDOPR-08-13**

Media Contact: **Carol Andersen (206) 553-7315**
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/wa

Theresa Chambers of Recognition Works, Kenmore Named SBA Home Based Business Champion

Celebration honoring winners on April 29th - Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle Center

SEATTLE – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Seattle District Office has named **Theresa Chambers** as the **2008 Washington State & Region 10 (WA, OR, ID, AK) Home Based Business Champion**. Recognition Works changes the way people think about employee recognition and helps businesses create a culture of appreciation that attracts and retains talented employees.

Theresa Chambers, chief motivation officer of Recognition Works, has experienced the rewards and difficulties of owning a home-based business and frequently volunteers to improve the climate for others. She meets the needs of individual work groups, companies, and associations by staying current on the latest thinking on employee recognition, engagement, and retention strategies. Chambers overcame the isolation that faces home-based businesses and boosted her practice by sharing her expertise with the small business community - including home-based businesses – and becoming involved in civic, professional and chamber activities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

High performing organizations – including those on *Fortune Magazine’s* 100 Best Companies to Work For – understand the critical role employee recognition plays in increasing employee engagement, retention, productivity and profitability. Chambers redefines recognition as a key business strategy to create positive, productive workplaces and shares knowledge about best practices to help more companies achieve this dynamic effect. She frequently provides workshops to human resource professionals, managers and employee committees to build capacity within their own organizations to create recognition tools aligned with business goals and values.

At Seattle Chamber seminars, she provides public and private sector employers with creative, low-cost/no-cost tools and resources and a framework to rethink their own recognition strategies. The City of Seattle’s employee recognition program called “Seattle Works!” is one of Theresa Chambers’ legacies. Another is the development of “Recognition Roundtable” meetings held monthly throughout Puget Sound where human resource practitioners from both the public and private sectors share ideas, strategies and tools that lead to successful recognition programs. This immensely popular model has been adopted at a national level through the Recognition Professionals International organization.

As a volunteer Board member, Chambers implemented the first-ever Best Practices Award program for Recognition Professionals International and chaired its regional conference held in Seattle, attended by over 150 recognition practitioners. She also initiated the “Best Places to Work Forum” that brings together the Pacific Northwest’s human resource executives from companies named on *Fortune Magazine’s* Best Places to Work list. This forum provides an unprecedented opportunity for small businesses to hear how large companies build and sustain positive and productive work environments and retain talented employees.

Through Recognition Works, www.recognitionworks.net, Theresa Chambers collaboratively shares her passion and vision that a culture of recognition is a powerful business strategy focused on keeping an organization’s most talented employees and, in turn, achieving a high performing workplace. Her small but mighty home-based business enhances the competitive edge of Puget Sound area companies. This positive impact is what makes Theresa Chambers the 2008 SBA Home-Based Business Champion..