



NEWS RELEASE

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Small Business Administration Salutes Buffalo Business Firm During National Minority Enterprise Development Week September 3-5, 2008

(Buffalo) – The Buffalo district office of the U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced that Buffalo business Rand & Jones Enterprises Company Inc. received the SBA's 2008 8(a) Graduate Firm of the Year. The National award was presented to Joan Yang, President of Rand & Jones Enterprises Company Inc. on September 5 during the 26th Anniversary celebration of the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference in Washington, D.C.

Rand & Jones Enterprises Company Inc., located at 18 Tracy Street in Buffalo, New York specializes in general construction and is a supplier of building materials. Yang established her company in 1985 and employs 7 full-time employees. Rand & Jones sponsors numerous community events including the annual Unity Day at the Martin Luther King Park, Senior Day at Buffalo East Side, the Walk as One Annual Event sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) and they continue fundraising for Hispanics United.

“Being an Asian American woman in a male dominated construction field was challenging. We gain respect from customers by hard work, dependability and quality work. We proudly completed nearly \$100 million sole projects over the last ten years and continue to prosper after our graduation from SBA's 8(a) Business Development program in January 2005.” said Joan Yang, President for Rand & Jones.

Buffalo District Director Franklin J. Sciortino added that “I am pleased that the SBA has played a role in Ms. Yang's growth and prosperity. Rand & Jones is a successful minority-owned business that has overcome many adversities and is making contributions to the state's economy.”

This year's MED Week event—“*The Power of Strategic Alliances in the Global Economy*”—focused on international trade, highlighted a joint SBA/MBDA forum on the benefits to small businesses of free trade agreements. Joint initiatives by SBA and the Department of Commerce on international trade were also on the agenda, and included the first-ever International Trade Symposium.

“MED week is a symbol of achievement and success and is a testimonial to the hard work and dedication of small business owners, in New York and nationwide. Rand & Jones should be proud of their hard work and I congratulate them on receiving this special award.” said Michael Pappas, Regional Administrator for SBA's Region II.

Joan Yang attended the National MED Week conference and accepted her award during the SBA's Administrator's Breakfast on the morning of Friday, September 5.