

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1/12/15

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### Iowa Small Business Development Center Announces its 2014 Entrepreneur Award Winners

AMES, Iowa – The Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is pleased to announce its 2014 small business award winners.

**Shelly Zimmerman**, Agency Owner, Harrison Thornburgh Insurance, Inc., Dumont, is the 2014 Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneur Achievement Award winner. **Deb Davis**, Owner, Sister's Homestyle Entrées, Humboldt, is the 2014 Neal Smith Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner.

The Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneur Achievement Award honors an Iowa woman entrepreneur who has significantly changed or improved her life and the lives of others. The award is presented in memory of Deb Dalziel, a devoted small business advocate who was director of the Small Business Development Center at Southeastern Community College, Burlington, from 1987 until her death from cancer in 1999 at the age of 44.

Brook Boehmler, director of the North Iowa Area Small Business Development Center, Mason City, nominated Zimmerman for the Deb Dalziel Award because "Shelly is an exemplary leader engaged in her community. Results like [hers] matter, especially in small towns like Dumont where an active commercial space filled with professionals supporting other businesses and bringing traffic into town is a key win."

The Neal Smith Entrepreneur of the Year Award honors an Iowa entrepreneur who has been in business a minimum of three years and has been significantly assisted by an Iowa Small Business Development Center. The award was established with a dual purpose—to honor long-time Iowa Congressman Neal Smith for his years of service to Iowa's small businesses, and to recognize Iowa's entrepreneurs, who are the driving force behind Iowa's economic growth.

Stefanie Boeckman, business counselor of the North Central Iowa Small Business Development Center, Fort Dodge, nominated Davis for the Neal Smith Award, stating that, "Deb Davis should be considered for the award because of her drive and dedication to make her business

successful. Deb is very deserving of this award and is a true and genuine person. She upholds her values and puts her community, her customers and her employees at the forefront of her mission.”

The client also worked with CIRAS, another Iowa State University partner, to help Deb understand and plan for her new manufacturing facility. Sister’s Homestyle Entrees was also able to take advantage of food safety training offered by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach in Webster County for all of her employees. Being able to have access to these special resources is important to small businesses and helps them find the answers or solutions available to help them move their businesses forward.

Lisa Shimkat, State Director of the Iowa Small Business Development Centers, agrees Zimmerman and Davis should be recognized saying, “Entrepreneurship and small businesses are alive and strong. Both of these award winning businesses show the caliber and the impact small businesses are having within the state. Shelly Zimmerman and Deb Davis have both worked diligently to move their businesses forward while still showing a strong commitment to their communities as well as a passionate dedication to their customers.”

The two special entrepreneur awards will be presented to the winners in a special ceremony on March 5, 2015 at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

The Iowa Small Business Development Center program is an outreach program of Iowa State University’s College of Business. Partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the organization has 15 regional assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the Center has helped hundreds of thousands of Iowa businesses and entrepreneurs through free, customized, professional business counseling and practical, affordable training.

For more information on these two award programs and Iowa Small Business Development Center programs or services, call (515) 294-2030 or visit [www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org).