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The Northwest's top small businesses head to D.C. for National Small Business of the Year Awards

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Top entrepreneurs from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington will soon head to the nation's capital to compete for the honor of National Small Business Person of the Year during the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week celebration, May 17-23, 2009.

ALASKA

Allan Ahlgren, President

Breeze In Corporation, Juneau, AK

Chain of convenience stores which received SBA 504 loan from Evergreen in 2008

IDAHO

Mara R. McMillen, President

McMillen Engineering, LLC; McMillen Construction, LLC, Boise, ID

Provides engineering and consulting engineering services

OREGON

Tara O'Keeffe-Broadbent, President & Founder

O'Keeffe's Company, Sisters, OR

Skin therapy

WASHINGTON

Rory Lee Nay, President

Proto Technologies, Inc., Liberty Lake, WA

Full line, rapid prototyping service bureau

This year, Small Business Week will be a three-day event in Washington, D.C., taking place at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Events can be viewed virtually through SBA's free, live webcasting, which will be accessible at www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com.

The National Small Business Person of the Year and runners-up will be selected from among the 53 state small business winners, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. More than 100 outstanding small business owners will be honored, reflecting a broad range of business products, services and innovations offered by our nation's entrepreneurs.