

Staying alive: AEDC celebrates small business success on May 20

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It's been a tough year for businesses all over the world, and while Humboldt County is no exception, it is home to a special breed of creative and persistent business owners that are constantly aware of how to do more with less.

That spirit inspired the theme for Arcata Economic Development Corporation's third annual Spotlight on Success -- "Staying Alive: Doing More with Less." This event will be held at the Arcata Theater Lounge on May 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

This year, the event will feature two award presentations to local businesses.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's San Francisco office will be honoring Mary Keehn of Cypress Grove Chevre as the 2009 Small Business Person of the Year for developing an outstanding, growing business.

The Northern California Association of Nonprofits will also present their Friend of the Nonprofits Award to a local business that has been an active supporter of local nonprofit organizations -- Ray's Shop Smart in Redway.

The event will also feature more than 30 displays featuring AEDC business clients and partner agencies, demonstrations, samples from local food manufacturers and door prizes.

Participating businesses include Champion Advocates, Plaza Design and Visiting Angels, among others.

Graduates from AEDC's Prosperity Individual Development Account Scholarship program will also be participating with displays and samples including Linda Reed from All Dog's Biscuit Bakery, Michael Myrick of Mad River Jams, and Nicole Vincent of Humboldt Medical Massage, who is a recent IDA program graduate and winner of a \$25,000 award from the Economic Fuel Business Challenge.

Food samples will be provided by 16 local food producers and restaurants.

"It's easy to get overcome by the weight of bad economic news, and we forget to notice what's working," said Ross Welch, executive director of AEDC. "When we take a minute to look around, we do have a lot to celebrate in our community. Today, more than ever, we need to recognize our local business leaders that continue to find ways to move forward while facing the obstacles from a slowing economy."

To request free tickets to this event, call 822-4616.