



Business News

Salute to Small Business Award Winners Announced

Harold Matthews Farming, Fortune Associates, **Gymnastics Beat**, AmeriGuard Security Services, Habitat for Humanity and Medcomm Medical Billing Services win top honors.

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Fresno, CA – Six small businesses in Fresno County are being honored for their contributions to the economic health of the region at the fifth annual Salute to Small Business awards luncheon today at Grand Occasions in Fresno. The event is presented by Union Bank of California and local partners in education, government and industry.

The awards luncheon pays tribute to the following businesses:

Best Agribusiness: Harold Matthews Farming, Harold Matthews

Civic Leadership/Community Involvement: Fortune Associates, Larry Fortune

Entrepreneur of the Year: Gymnastics Beat, Sam and Diana Shima

Best Minority-owned Business: AmeriGuard Security Services, Lawrence Garcia

Best Nonprofit: Habitat for Humanity, Tony Miranda

Best Woman-owned Business: Medcomm Medical Billing Services, Linda Collins

“We are proud to honor this diverse group of business people who drive our economy and are leaders in our communities,” said Union Bank Senior Vice President and Regional Manager Michael Girazian. “Their commitment to excellence in business and giving back to their community makes the Valley a better place for all of us to live and work.”

Girazian explained that all of the honorees will be featured in marketing and advertising, and the winners in the Minority-owned and Woman-owned categories will receive scholarships to attend the Management Development for Entrepreneurs Academy offered by UCLA’s Anderson School of Management. This is an intensive, four-day certificate program that provides instruction in the areas of business strategy, financial management, and organizational and managerial transition.

To be eligible for the Salute program, nominated companies were required to be at least three years old with headquarters in Fresno County, independent and privately owned, with annual sales of \$5 million or less.