

SBA Northern Ohio Office Announces 2022 Small Business Week Winners

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Contact: patricia.welsh@sba.gov | 216-522-4172

CLEVELAND - U.S. Small Business Administration Northern Ohio District Director Gil Goldberg is pleased to announce the 2022 National Small Business Week winners hailing from northern Ohio. National Small Business Week Awards celebrate the achievements and resilience of small business owners and their important contributions to our economy and communities. The 30th Annual National Small Business Week is being celebrated this week, May 1-7, 2022.

“During National Small Business Week, I am proud to honor the outstanding small businesses and small business service organizations in northern Ohio – including the state’s 2022 Small Business Person of the Year, and the Great Lakes Regional Winner of the Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award,” said SBA Northern Ohio District Director Gil Goldberg. “These individuals and institutions have helped bring jobs and wealth to our communities as our economy pivots out of the pandemic, and SBA is pleased to honor them during this time of celebration and recognition.”

District Director Goldberg will present the winners with their awards during a virtual ceremony on Friday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m. In addition, Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell, and Shaker Heights Mayor David E. Weiss have announced proclamations in support of National Small Business Week with SBA, and these will also be shared during the ceremony. For information on and access to the virtual awards ceremony on May 6, please contact Patricia Welsh, SBA Public Affairs Specialist, at 216-522-4172.

- **2022 Northern Ohio Exporter of the Year Award Mr. Bob Vitale, CEO Midwest Industrial Supply, Inc. Canton, Ohio**

In 1975, Bob Vitale opened a Canton-area small business that eventually evolved into the leading provider of regulatory-compliant, environmentally safe solutions for industries needing to control dust, friction, ice, or unstable soil. His focus on helping his customers meet their regulatory requirements is fueled by his desire to create and preserve a cleaner Earth and a healthier quality of life for its inhabitants. Midwest Industrial Supply, Inc. products are developed to be environmentally safe, are designed for superior performance, and are tested in the field, as well as in the company’s own laboratory. Today the company engineers, manufactures, and delivers solutions around the world to clients in the quarry, mining, construction, oil and gas, steel, rail, and remote runway industries. To date, the company has ongoing or completed projects in such countries as Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Peru, Senegal, and Spain. Mr. Vitale was nominated by Mr. Mousa Kassis, SBDC Export Assistance Network Director at Youngstown State University, on behalf of the Ohio Small Business Development Centers, State of Ohio’s Department of Development.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.