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Christy Webber Receives SBA's Entrepreneurial Success of the Year Award

CHICAGO, JUNE 30, 2009 – On June 25, 2009, Chicago entrepreneur, Christy Webber, was presented the 2009 Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Success of the Year award. This award is given each year by the US Small Business Administration during Small Business Week to "recognize the accomplishments of outstanding Illinois small business owners."

About Christy Webber Landscapes

Christy Webber Landscapes is a full-service landscape provider offering design, construction and maintenance programs to residential, commercial and municipal clients throughout Chicago and the south suburbs. Webber founded the company in 1990, running one truck and a small crew from her kitchen table. Today, the company has over 250 employees and an expansive fleet of trucks, trailers and equipment serving Chicago and the south suburbs (from their Blue Island office), and services have been expanded to include commercial snow removal.

In addition to her work in the landscaping industry, Webber formed development company Chicago GreenWorks. The company's first project was Rancho Verde, an eco-industrial park on Chicago's west side, home to Christy Webber Landscapes' headquarters. Rancho Verde has won numerous awards for its environmentally sensitive approach to redevelopment of a brownfield site in a disadvantaged community. The site's innovative features include a tiered stormwater management system (including a green roof, bioswales and a rain garden) and the first Chicago public street with porous paving or induction street lighting. In 2007, the building was awarded a LEED Platinum rating, the US Green Building Council's highest classification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

About the SBA's Entrepreneurial Success of the Year award

The Small Business Association selects one individual each year to receive the Entrepreneurial Success of the Year award. Recipients must own and operate a business that was launched as small businesses (according to SBA size standards) and developed into a large business. In addition, they must have received SBA assistance to help their businesses grow.

The judges consider several criteria in selecting a recipient, including:

- *Staying power* — a substantiated history as an established business, sustained expansion, steady growth in net worth
- *Growth in number of employees* — a measure of impact on the job market
- *Increase in sales and/or unit volume* — an indication of continued growth
- *Innovativeness of product or service offered* — an illustration of the creativity and imagination of the nominee

- *Response to adversity* — examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them
- *Contributions to community-oriented projects*