



For Immediate Release

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Vantage West Credit Union named SBA Community Lender of the Year

TUCSON (May 1, 2009) – Yesterday, local businesses and individuals were honored for their accomplishments at the 16th Annual Enterprise Business Awards Luncheon hosted by the Arizona Small Business Association (ASBA). This year’s winners for the state of Arizona were selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Accepting the *Community Lender of the Year Award* for Vantage West Credit Union, was Kathy Ramirez, Vice President and Manager of Business Lending & Services.

The SBA Community Lender of the Year Award is presented to the top community lender that achieves the highest percentage of loans to traditionally “underserved” markets including minority, women and U.S. Veteran entrepreneurs. In her acceptance speech, Ramirez thanked the CEO and Sr. Management and the Vantage West Board of Directors for their “unwavering support” of the Business Lending program.

This year’s “Celebrate the Best in Business” luncheon, took place at The Phoenix Convention Center. Robin Sewell, award winning journalist and host of the television series *Arizona Highways*, was the event emcee.

Vantage West Credit Union is the largest credit union in Southern Arizona with \$948 million in assets and nearly 100,000 members. Vantage West Credit Union began offering Business Loans in 2002. Any individual or business owner who lives, works, worships, volunteers, or attends school in Pima or Pinal County or in designated zip codes in the greater Phoenix area is eligible to join.

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