



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

# *News Release*

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## **SBA announces Colorado Small Business Week winners**

**DENVER** – Frances Padilla, the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Colorado District Director has announced that Rick Schmidt, President/CEO of Tipping Point Solutions, is this year’s Colorado Small Business Person of the Year award winner. Tipping Point Solutions is a leading developer of highly immersive and interactive training products. Schmidt is a veteran and member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa in Michigan. Padilla also announced winners in the other Small Business Week categories including Small Business Development Center’s Excellence and Innovation Award, Colorado Exporter of the Year, Small Business Prime Contractor, and several small business lender awards. This year’s Colorado awards event will be held on Friday, May 10 at Front Range Community College in Westminster, Colorado.

“During National Small Business Week, communities across Colorado will celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship and the positive impact small business has on helping Colorado communities thrive and grow. I congratulate Rick Schmidt of Tipping Point Solutions, and the rest of our deserving awardees, for being named Colorado’s Small Business Week winners,” says Frances Padilla, SBA’s Colorado District Director. “Colorado has a rich history of small business creation and innovation, and our winners are representative of the robust business climate that exists in this state.”

Each year since 1963, the president has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. National Small Business Week is set as the first full week in May, and this year the dates are May 5-11. This year’s National Small Business Week ceremonies will be held in Washington, D.C on May 5-6 where all of the state small business persons of the year will be honored. The agency will also announce its National Small Business Person of the Year winner at this event.

“Congratulations to all of the Colorado National Small Business Week awardees. Each award winner demonstrates why Colorado has consistently been recognized as one of the best states in the nation to own and operate a small business,” says Dan Nordberg, SBA Region VIII Administrator. “I especially want to congratulate Lisa Hudson, and the entire East Colorado Small Business Development Center in Greeley, for being named the Region VIII Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Center award winner, and Mary Stevenson, President of Deltech, Inc., who is our regional exporter award winner.”

### **Colorado Small Business Person of the Year**

Rick Schmidt, President/CEO  
Tipping Point Solutions  
700 S. Yosemite St, Suite 280  
Centennial, CO 80112  
303-353-0440

Rick Schmidt has built a distinguished career as a creative visionary and successful business operator. As President and CEO of Tipping Point Solutions (TPS), Inc., a veteran and Native American owned firm, Rick oversees the day-to-day instructional design, film production and technology development efforts that support the company’s various customers. With over 28 years of experience delivering creative solutions for both the military and commercial markets, Rick is a recognized expert in the convergence of film-media with interactive training technologies.

Rick Schmidt is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan. He was the first person in his family to attend and graduate college, is married to his high school sweetheart and is proud to have his daughter follow into his footsteps, having recently joined the company.

Schmidt was an active participant and 2018 graduate of the Emerging Leaders program. Tipping Point Solutions was also a recipient of support from the Procurement Technical Assistance Center and Small Business Development Center. Tipping Point is a Native American Disadvantaged, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned and SBA Certified 8(a) small business that have supported numerous federal, DOD and defense contractors.

### **Colorado/Region VIII Small Business Development Center’s Excellence and Innovation Award**

East Colorado SBDC - **Won both the State of Colorado and Region VIII Award**  
East Colorado Business Development Center  
Lisa Hudson, Director  
800 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Kepner Hall  
Greeley, Colorado 80631  
970-350-4274

The East Colorado Small Business Development Center offers business consulting and training that maximizes the economic potential of entrepreneurs throughout eastern Colorado.

## **Colorado/Region VIII Exporter of the Year Award**

Mary F. Stevenson - **Won both the State of Colorado and Region VIII Award**

President

Deltech, Inc

1007 E 75<sup>th</sup> Ave Unit E

Denver, CO 80229

303-645-3936

Deltech Inc. is a small, family-run company that began in 1968 as an engineering services company for the mining industry. It currently designs and builds furnaces for the production of scientific products, from laboratory implements to semi-conductor components and sells its product internationally.

## **Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year**

Medved Global Inc. - **This firm was named the national winner in this category**

Michelle Hicks, President

14415 Co Rd 26

Dolores, CO 81323

Medved Global, Inc. is an Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Small Business construction company located in Southwestern Colorado and performing work nationwide.

## **Colorado District Director's Diamond Award**

Metro North Chamber of Commerce, Westminster, CO

## **Colorado Lender Awards**

- **7(a) Large Lender of the Year:** Wells Fargo National Association, Denver, CO
- **7(a) Small Lender of the Year:** CoBiz Bank, Denver, CO (now dba BOK Financial)
- **Large 504 Certified Development Company of the Year:** Colorado Lending Source, Denver, CO
- **Small 504 Certified Development Company of the Year:** Preferred Lending Partners, Denver, CO.
- **Colorado Community/Rural Lender of the Year:** Timberline Bank, Grand Junction CO

For more information about National Small Business week visit [www.sba.gov/nsbw](http://www.sba.gov/nsbw). Workshops, events, and other celebrations will occur throughout the state during National Small Business Week. Starting April 8, a calendar of events for the week will be shared at: [www.coloradolendingsource.org/small-business-week](http://www.coloradolendingsource.org/small-business-week). For more information on SBA's programs and services please visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov), and remember to follow us Twitter @sbarockymtn and @sba\_colorado.

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