

News

Local Women Receive SBA Award

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) named Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert, owners of Los Osos based Connoisseur Creations, Inc., as the 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year for the SBA's San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast region, which includes 15 counties.

The SBA will present Andrea and Meaghan with their Small Business Persons of the Year award at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6 at the SLO County Government Center.

Established in 1996, Connoisseur Creations' flagship product, the Quick Pickle Kit, uses recipes handed down through Andrea's family and is sold on Amazon and at local retailers. It is safe, quick, simple and natural and consumers can use the kit to pickle any vegetable. QuickPickleKit.com promotes health and reduces food waste. Connoisseur Creations donates part of the Kit's sales to local nonprofit agencies, and their products are assembled by disabled adults.

"Meaghan and I are grateful to the SBA, and Mission Community Services Corporation's Women's Business Center for their support of Connoisseur Creations," said Andrea in a news release. "We are honored to be recognized as the SBA's 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year, and appreciate the opportunity to advocate for other women owned businesses."

Connoisseur Creations used assistance from SBA funded Mission Community Services Corporation's Women's Business Center to make critical decisions about their company's operations, which allowed the business to run more effectively and efficiently.

"The SBA is proud to recognize Andrea and Meaghan as our 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year," said Fresno District Director Dawn Golik. "Connoisseur Creations is a great success story about how SBA programs including

Women Business Centers, provide free assistance to help woman owned companies start up, scale up, and succeed."

National Small Business Week will be observed May 5-11, 2019, with events in Washington, D.C., around the country and online.