



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NSBA Honors Diane Sumpter of Columbia, South Carolina**

**Washington, D.C.** — NSBA today recognized Diane Sumpter, president and CEO of DESA, Inc. in Columbia, South Carolina, as a finalist for the 2017 Lewis Shattuck Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. The award honors small-business owners who go above and beyond in advocating for policies to improve America’s small-business community.

“Diane Sumpter is the epitome of small-business advocate: she is outspoken on issues that impact small firms and does so without regard to partisan politics,” stated NSBA President and CEO Todd McCracken. “Diane has spent more than four decades volunteering for entrepreneurial causes and working to promote of small, women and minority businesses.”

For more than 20 years, in addition to running DESA, Inc., Sumpter has operated the Department of Commerce’s MBDA Business Center in Columbia, S.C. which provides business consulting services to minority businesses. She is a fixture at the City and County Council meetings and actively advocates for policies and candidates that better the small-business environment in South Carolina and beyond. She meets regularly with her bipartisan lawmakers, has received accolades from officials on various levels, including Governor Nikki Haley and President Bill Clinton, and was recognized in an official resolution of the South Carolina Senate.

In addition to honoring Sumpter, NSBA also named David Ickert of Air Tractor as the overall award winner and recognized the following small-business owners for their excellence in advocating on small-business issues: Curtis Richardson, C&J Electrical Services; LLC, Michael Stanek, Hunt Imaging, LLC; and Deborah Rutledge, Rutledge Group, Inc.

“I am honored to recognize Diane Sumpter as one of our outstanding small-business advocates,” stated NSBA Chair Pedro Alfonso of Dynamic Concepts, Inc. in Washington, D.C. “She is a well-known and highly-respected small-business voice, and has greatly contributed to small-business success in South Carolina and beyond.”

Celebrating 80 years in operation, NSBA is a staunchly nonpartisan organization advocating on behalf of America’s entrepreneurs. NSBA’s 65,000 members represent every state and every industry in the U.S., and we are proud to be the nation’s first small-business advocacy organization. Please visit [www.nsba.biz](http://www.nsba.biz) or follow us at @NSBAAdvocate.

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