

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCES  
WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*Bay Area nonprofit for women entrepreneurs accepting nominations through May 31, 2010*

**San Francisco, CA**—Women's Initiative for Self Employment, one of the largest microenterprise training and funding organizations in the country, announced today that nominations are open in its annual Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. The organization seeks to recognize female entrepreneurs throughout the Bay Area who:

- Have been successful despite the barriers that exist for women business owners
- Exemplify how business ownership and leadership is beneficial for women
- Have a positive impact on the local community or the community at large
- Advance their field through innovation.

To be considered for the award, the individual must identify as a woman and be the founder or owner of a successful business.

The winning businesses throughout the Bay Area will be recognized at Women's Initiative events throughout the Bay Area, and featured in the Women's Initiative eNewsletter, website, press releases and other materials.

"Women entrepreneurs are one of the strongest economic forces in this country," said Julie Castro Abrams, CEO of Women's Initiative. "We want to create a movement that promotes women's entrepreneurship and makes people aware of the incredible contributions women business leaders make not only to their local communities but also to economic recovery."

Nominations are being accepted online at [www.womensinitiative.org](http://www.womensinitiative.org) through May 31. Committees in regions throughout the Bay Area will review the nomination and entry forms and select one winner from that region. Winners will be announced in early August.

Various regional events honoring the winners will be held throughout the month of October, which is National Women-Owned Business Month. For more information and to nominate an entrepreneur, go to [www.WomensInitiative.org](http://www.WomensInitiative.org).

About Women's Initiative

Women's Initiative is one of the nation's largest microenterprise training organization and is widely regarded as a leader in the field of microenterprise training. For more than 20 years, Women's Initiative has been providing low-income women throughout the Bay Area the training, funding and ongoing support to start their own business and become economically self sufficient. In English and in Spanish, women conquer their fears of success, complete a business plan, learn technology, access capital, and meet influential and experienced business people who can help them succeed. The women who go through our program significantly increase their income and assets while launching businesses, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.

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