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**Maine Small Business Development Centers Director, John Massaua, Honored for
“Unfaltering Commitment” to Maine’s Small Business and Entrepreneurs**

PORTLAND, MAINE – John Massaua, director of the Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC), has received the Thomas A. McGillicuddy Award for Excellence, given annually by the Maine office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The award, presented May 25th at SBA’s annual Awards Celebration in Bangor, recognizes an individual or organization with “unfaltering commitment” to Maine’s small business and entrepreneurs. It is named for Thomas A. McGillicuddy, District Director of the SBA Maine District Office from 1974-1987, who was a tireless advocate for Maine’s small businesses.

Jeffrey Butland, Regional Administrator of the SBA New England, and Jack Cashman, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, presented the award to Massaua. Butland likened Massaua’s commitment to Gillicuddy’s, adding “John’s energy and creativity make Maine a better place to live and work and to be an entrepreneur.” U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe, chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, joined Maine SBA District Director Mary McAleney in Bangor to congratulate Massaua.

Massaua joined the Maine SBDC five years ago as a certified business counselor in its Fairfield office. For the last three years, he has served as Maine SBDC state director, coordinating business and technology counseling to almost 3000 clients each year from 11 service centers and 25 outreach sites around Maine. Prior to that, Massaua spent thirty years in the retail/wholesale industry advancing from cart boy to president. He was one of the five founding officers of Staples, the Office Superstore. Massaua is a Price-Babson fellow at the University of Southern Maine’s School of Business. He lives with his wife Janice and daughter Meghan in China Village.

Massaua called the award “a great honor,” adding, “There is great satisfaction in working each day to support the critical work done by Maine’s 37,000 small businesses and 100,000 independent workers.” Massaua credited his “excellent staff and Maine SBDC partnerships like those with SBA, the State of Maine, and the University of Southern Maine” for his SBA honor.

About Maine Small Business Development Centers: *Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC) and its tech-focus group, Maine Small Business & Technology Development Centers (Maine SBTDC) provide comprehensive business*

management assistance, training, resource and information services to Maine's micro, small and technology-based business communities. Business assistance is provided at no cost to business owners by professional certified business counselors who meet rigorous education and business experience standards.

Maine SBDC/SBTDC is a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in association with the SBA/SBDC, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (Maine DECD), the University of Southern Maine (USM), and leading economic and/or community development hosting organizations, including the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC), and the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC); with support from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI), the University of Maine (UMaine), and other contractors, allies and stakeholders.

Accredited by the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) and administered by USM's School of Business, Maine SBDC/SBTDC operates a network of 11 service centers and 25 outreach offices located conveniently throughout the state. Maine SBDC/SBTDC provides comprehensive business management assistance, training, resource and information services to Maine's micro, small, and technology-based business communities.

Maine SBDC/SBTDC's mission is to engage itself and others in development activities that contribute to the improvement of the economic climate for and the success of micro, small, and technology-based businesses in the State of Maine. Its focus is to assist in the creation, growth and maintenance of viable small businesses and the jobs these businesses provide. Maine SBDC/SBTDC serves those seeking assistance who are willing and able to build, sustain, and/or expand their business.

*More information about the Maine SBDC/SBTDC can be found at www.mainesbdc.org.
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