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Maine Small Business Development Centers' Website Recognized

Portland –The website of the Maine Small Business Development Centers (Maine SBDC) has received a “Best of the Web Award” for its design, navigation and content. Maine SBDC’s Manager of Computer and Information Technology, Scott Robinett, accepted the honor at the June 22, 2007, Geeks in Black Technology Awards Gala, sponsored by Maine’s Software and Information Technology Industry Association (MESDA).

The Geeks in Black Gala is the state’s largest and most recognized technology awards program. MESDA hosts the Awards Gala to celebrate and recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to technology in Maine.

The Maine SBDC website (www.mainesbdc.org) was recognized in the nonprofit category. Maine SBDC operates a network of service centers and outreach offices throughout Maine to assist small businesses through one-on-one business counseling and training. In 2006, it re-designed and updated its website to provide not only a rich repository of information and resources but also provide interactive and self-paced services including training in how to start a business and marketing. Robinett coordinates the website and assists the agency’s more than 20 certified business counselors in creating web content in their area of expertise such as franchising, financials, e-commerce and other topics.

“Our goal is not only to provide accessible, convenient resources online but also to provide interactive experiences that assist Maine’s small business owners in successfully starting or expanding,” said Robinett, “Our web presence is a manifestation of the Maine SBDC’s strategic direction to be ‘e’ driven and is but one part of the Maine SBDC’s use of technology in order to help Maine’s small businesses succeed.”

In the past year (May, 2006 to May, 2007) distinct users of the Maine SBDC website increased six fold to almost 61,000. In that same time period, visitors made 479,983 successful requests for pages.

About Maine Small Business Development Centers/Maine Small Business & Technology Development Centers (Maine SBDC/SBTDC): *Maine SBDC/SBTDC is a partnership program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in association with the SBA/OSBDC, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, the University of Southern Maine, and leading economic and/or community development*

hosting organizations, including the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Eastern Maine Development Corporation, and the Northern Maine Development Commission and with support from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) 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 service centers and outreach offices located conveniently throughout the state.