FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Iowa entrepreneurs to be honored by State Legislature and Iowa SBDC

AMES, Iowa — The Iowa Small Business Development Center's two 2012 special entrepreneur award winners will be presented with their awards during a ceremony in Room 116 at the State Capitol Building on Thursday, February 21st, at 8:30 a.m.

Christina Moffatt, Owner, Crème Cupcake + Dessert, Des Moines, is the 2012 Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneur Achievement Award winner. **Charles Dirks**, President, CQM Systems LLC, Coralville, is the 2012 Neal Smith Entrepreneur of the Year Award winner.

Jim Heckmann, State Director of the Iowa Small Business Development Center (SBDC), will present each entrepreneur with a special award plaque recognizing their excellence and success. He will be assisted by Senators Bill Dotzler, Matt McCoy, and Robert Dvorsky plus Representatives Jo Oldson, Dave Jacoby and Kirsten Running-Marquardt.

Heckmann says, "It is always a pleasure to recognize and honor entrepreneurial success. These two winners personify the dedication, hard work, creativity, and perseverance that are the hallmark of Iowa's small business owners. We congratulate these entrepreneurs on their accomplishments and are honored to have been able to assist them."

Senators Bill Dotzler, Matt McCoy and Robert Dvorsky will present Senate Certificates of Recognition to Moffatt and Dirks after the SBDC award ceremony.

Immediately following the ceremony, Moffatt and Dirks, plus Heckmann and SBDC Regional Directors Paul Heath and Sherry Shafer, will be escorted to the House Floor to witness a House Resolution being read that honors their excellence and success. Representatives Jo Oldson, Dave Jacoby and Kirsten Running-Marquardt will present the two winners with Certificates of Recognition and copies of the House Resolution. The entire party will then be escorted to the Senate Gallery where they will also be recognized for their excellence and success by the entire Senate. The two award winners will then meet with Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds in the governor's formal offices.

The Neal Smith Entrepreneur of the Year Award honors an Iowa entrepreneur who has been in business a minimum of three years and has been significantly assisted by an Iowa Small Business Development Center. The award was established with a dual purpose: to honor long-time Iowa Congressman Neal Smith for being instrumental in establishing the Small Business Development Center program, and to recognize Iowa's entrepreneurs, the driving force behind Iowa's economic growth.

The Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneur Achievement Award honors an Iowa woman entrepreneur who has significantly changed or improved her life and the lives of others. The award is presented in memory of Deb Dalziel, a devoted small business advocate who was director of the Small Business Development Center at Southeastern Community College, Burlington, from 1987 until her death from cancer in 1999 at the age of 44.

The Iowa Small Business Development Center, an outreach program of Iowa State University's College of Business, is partially funded by the U. S. Small Business Administration and has 16 regional business assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the SBDC has helped hundreds of thousands of Iowa businesses and entrepreneurs through professional counseling and training.

For more information on these two special award programs and SBDC services visit www.iowasbdc.org/about-us/awards and www.iowasbdc.org/services/regional-centers or call 515-294-2030.

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