

SBA Recognizes Two Springfield Companies

Two Springfield businesses earned awards at the Small Business Administration's Small Business Awards Ceremony in Chicago on June 27.

Douglas Kinley, president of Small Business Growth Corporation, received the award for 504 Lender of the Year. Small Business Growth Corporation (GrowthCorp) is a statewide, not-for-profit corporation that works in conjunction with financial institutions to provide SBA 504 program financing and assistance to small businesses. As a Certified Development Company (CDC), Small Business Growth Corporation helps small businesses finance their expansion goals through the SBA 504 Loan Program.

Jay Johnson, of Johnson Grain, accepted the award for Illinois Small Business Person of the Year. Johnson Grain is a state-of-the-art grain elevator which has transformed the way grain elevators do business. By adding a railroad spur adjacent to a major rail line and customizing his grain elevator with a mechanized tunnel and conveyor system, Johnson eliminated traditional transportation costs and provided local farmers a way to achieve higher profits. Johnson also received the honor of first-runner up for the National 2007 Small Business Person of the Year Award held in Washington, D.C. in April.