

U.S. Small Business Administration



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Georgia Office

## Media Release

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### **Judson H. Rackley, a C.P.A., in Valdosta, Georgia Is SBA's Financial Services Champion of the Year**

*--He helped develop an Entrepreneur Resource Center for his Community--*

Judson Rackley, a partner in the accounting firm of Brandon, Rackley and Dukes, P.C., has been selected the 2010 Financial Services Champion of the Year for Georgia and the Southeast Region by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Rackley, working with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Valdosta State University, has donated more than 300 hours of accounting and finance consulting time over the past eight years to entrepreneurs, start-up companies and other firms considering expansion

Rackley will receive his SBA awards from Terri Denison, SBA Georgia District Director, at an Atlanta luncheon on May 5 hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle. He was nominated for the statewide SBA award by Suzanne Barnett, Area Director of the Valdosta State University SBDC.

Working with the Valdosta Chamber of Commerce, Rackley helped develop the SEEDS Center (Sowing Entrepreneur & Economic Development Success) a resource center that has served nearly 2,000 clients since its inception in 2004. The center is located in the Chamber headquarters and provides resource material to small businesses and demographic data to aid them in site selection, new market development and business planning.

In addition, Rackley served as Chairman of the Valdosta Chamber's Home Grown Entrepreneurs Program. Under his leadership, Valdosta was designated as Georgia's first Entrepreneur Friendly Community by Gov. Sonny Perdue in 2005.

Rackley was also active in the creation of the Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition, the first ever community wide business plan contest in Valdosta. His continued support of the program has helped it gain additional in-kind support from local professionals including attorneys and other CPAs.

In other community work, Rackley has actively supported legislation on the local, state and federal levels that help small businesses. At his own expense, he has traveled with the Chamber delegation to Washington, D.C. over five years to meet with congressional members on such issues as affordable healthcare for small businesses and civil justice reform.

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Rackley was the creator and first chairman of the Chamber's Targeted Business Expansion Committee (TBEC) which has as its primary goal the creation of jobs for college and university graduates. Under his direction, TBEC secured the services of Georgia Tech for its TechSmart program. This is providing Valdosta with a technology roadmap for growing knowledge-based businesses.

A native of Grady County, Georgia, Rackley is a graduate of Whigham High School and received his B.S. Degree in Accounting from Valdosta State University.

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