

GTS COMMUNICATIONS WINS SBA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

North Olmsted, Ohio—GTS Communications, an inner-connect telecommunications firm specializing in custom business phone systems and fiber cabling for data, voice and audio-visual applications, was awarded the 2006 U.S. Small Business Administration [SBA] Small Business Person of the Year award for the Cleveland district.

GTS owners **Jerry and Victoria Stallard** earned the prestigious accolade as a team, after submitting extensive application materials that evaluated:

- > Staying power of the company
- > Sales and employment growth
- > Net income and net worth
- > Product and service innovation and expansion
- > Increase in geographic service area and square footage occupied
- > Response to adversity
- > Contributions to the community



The Stallards were honored on June 7 at a special awards ceremony at Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, as part of the local celebration of National Small Business Week. SCORE's Cleveland Chapter, with the support of the Council of Smaller Enterprises [COSE], hosted the lunch event. Patrick Rea, midwest regional administrator for SBA, was the keynote speaker.

"We're just thrilled about this. The nomination guidelines were very stringent and involved, which makes us even more grateful to have made the final cut," says Victoria Stallard. "We share this award equally with our devoted employees and clients."

For more than 40 years, National Small Business Week has recognized outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to the nation's economy.

About GTS Communications

This year marks GTS' 10th in business, and a relocation next month to a company-owned building in Strongsville six times their current space. GTS also recently earned two other outstanding business performance and growth awards—the Weatherhead 100 and the COSE Ten Under 10.

Business Telephone Systems, Sales and Service

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