



Meet the Small Business of the Year Finalists

Adding a little more anticipation to 2015 Small Business Week activities, the Mobile Area Chamber expanded its recognition, naming three finalists among those vying for the Small Business of the Year award.

On Thursday, May 7, the winner will be revealed along with this year's Outstanding Entrepreneur during the Chamber's Small Business Week luncheon.

"With 89 percent of our members employing 50 employees or less, it made sense to broaden the net and highlight the successful efforts of a few more of our members," says **Darrell Randle**, the Chamber's vice president of small business development.

On this page and the following pages, readers will see this year's three finalists for the Small Business of the Year and information on the week's specially selected workshops and networking events.

Small Business of the Year applications were judged by a panel of individuals with different expertise such as management, finance and business development.



American WeatherStar

Growing from a small space in the family residence, to a 5,000-square-foot warehouse in only 12 years, American WeatherStar offers its nationwide contractor customers a variety of roofing materials. President **Brian O'Donnell** says the company's unique services include a business development center offering leads to American WeatherStar clients. The company, with 12 employees, also provides specialized, hands-on training sessions.

A 36-year-old family business, McAleer's Office Furniture has carved a unique niche as an office furniture store. Staying on top of industry trends and expanding services such as interior design and customer service have helped the company remain innovative and relevant, said President **Melissa Cross**. McAleer's has 21 employees.



McAleer's Office Furniture