

SanTanSunNews

June 18 - July 1, 2011

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Ocotillo accounting firm tapped for BBB award

The second time was the charm.

Chandler's The Accountant's Office, LLC, (TAO) owned by founder and CEO Carolyn J. Brown of Ocotillo, was given the prestigious 2011 Business Ethics Award by the Better Business Bureau of Greater Arizona at a recent event at the Arizona Biltmore. Five firms were honored in categories determined by the number of people they employ. The Accountant's Office won the Category I award for one to 10 employees – the second time the firm has been a finalist for the award.

The BBB Business Ethics Awards recognize firms whose business practices exemplify BBB's mission and principles to ensure the marketplace remains fair and honorable and who maintain a solid commitment to operate ethically.

In congratulating the winners, BBB President/CEO Matthew Fehling praised them for their work.

"These businesses not only operate ethically, they have succeeded and stand out in the marketplace because of it," notes Fehling.

"We think ethics and accounting go well together," says Brown. "It was an exciting event. No one knew who the winners were until the last second."

She recalls emcee Pat McMahon saying, "The winner for one to 10 employees is ...," and watching the BBB logo starting to rotate "ever so slowly" on the screen before their logo came up.

"I think I stopped breathing until then!"

After a brief video and the award presentation,



Photo courtesy of Peter Jordan Photography

WINNERS: Carolyn J. Brown, second from right, founder of The Accountant's Office, LLC, (TAO) receives a Business Ethics Award from the Better Business Bureau recently. From left are BBB Foundation President Gary Volkenant, BBB Board Chair Lee Scanzano, TAO Accounting Manager Marcia Benincasa, Brown and BBB President/CEO Matthew Fehling.

keynote speaker ASU Professor Marianne Jennings stopped Brown on her way back to her seat to say she liked her comment that "IRS guidelines are not suggestions."

Brown says a commitment to ethics and integrity and a passion to help small business owners succeed is what drives her and the TAO Team.

"Awards are great and we are honored by the recognition, but the highest praise is continuing referrals from our happy clients," says Brown, who has owned accounting firms in the Valley since 1973.

Other winners were CyberMark International in Category 2 for 11 to 20 employees; Fairytale Brownies, Category 3 with 21 to 50 workers; Advanced Auto Service and Tire Centers, Category 4 with 51 to 150 employees; and Sonora Quest Laboratories for Category 5 with more than 150 employees.

Since 2001, The Accountant's Office, LLC, has been providing full-outsource accounting services for small businesses and personal bill paying services for individuals nationwide. Totally virtual and paperless, the firm provides a variety of options for small business owners to increase their productivity and their profit. Brown also speaks on "From Brick and Mortar to Virtual Success: How to Run Your Business From Anywhere." Her book, "Biz-Tips: 30 Quick Tips to Make You More Effective in Your Business" is currently the No. 8 bestseller on www.TheBookPatch.com. Her next book, "The 5 Most Costly Mistakes Business Owners Make and How to Fix Them," is due out this fall. More information is available at the firm's website at www>YourVirtualAccountingOffice.com and their blog at www.TheAccountantsOffice.biz/wordpress. For details about the company, contact Brown at 480-219-4285 or Carolyn@TheAccountantsOffice.biz. The full video is available for viewing at www.facebook.com/theaccountantsoffice. More information on the Better Business Bureau is available at www.arizonabbb.org.