



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Champion of Entrepreneurship* Award Recognizes Contributions of NC Senators**

RALEIGH, NC. The SBTDC, along with its Statewide and Regional Advisory Boards, is pleased to announce that **Senators Walter H. Dalton, Linda Garrou and Kay R. Hagan** have received the **2008 UNC SBTDC Champion of Entrepreneurship** award. This award calls attention to their legislative leadership in supporting programs deployed on behalf of our courageous entrepreneurs as they do what they do best ... build companies that build communities, create jobs, boost tax revenues and enhance the net worth of employees, suppliers, customers, investors and their families across our state. The award was presented at the Piedmont Triad Research Park in Winston-Salem.

The award itself features pottery by artist Susan Brown Freeman, who talks about using ingredients that “can become anything the mind can imagine and the hands can achieve”, which symbolizes the essence of entrepreneurship.

Scott Daugherty, Executive Director of the SBTDC and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Engagement, Extension and Economic Development at NCSU, said “the leadership of the Senators insured advancement of a statewide initiative to develop eleven clusters: Advanced Medical Technologies, Automotive, Aviation/Aerospace, Biotechnology/Natural Products, Boat Building/Marine Trades, Local Foods, Marine Sciences, Nonwovens, Photonics, Serious Games, and Value Added Agriculture.” Daugherty notes that this effort “is a multi-campus initiative led by NCSU on behalf of The University of North Carolina.”

The work by these NC Senators “helped with the continuation of the innovative SBTDC-led Tier One County initiative, bringing together the public and private sectors in support of our rural companies” said Walter Daniels, Chairman of the SBTDC’s Statewide Advisory Board. “We especially appreciate Senator Dalton’s work on behalf of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Matching Program, where state funding is used to match federal funding in support of promising innovations designed to advance new and existing industries and sharpen our competitive edge as NC fights for an increased share of the global market.”

Tim Janke, Director of the SBTDC Private Equity Initiative, stated that “their funding support was clearly timely as the SBTDC continues its role in support of angel capital formation and enhancement of the investment process through the IMAF Family of Funds, NC Capital Highway and their partners.”

The SBTDC is a statewide business and technology extension service of The University of North Carolina system administered by NC State University and operated in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBTDC provides business counseling and management education services to business throughout North Carolina from 17 offices across the State. For more information, visit [www.sbtfdc.org](http://www.sbtfdc.org).

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