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## Women-owned businesses honored at expo

By TIFFANY STECKER

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Women-owned businesses and supporters gathered Tuesday for the Women's Business Center of California's annual awards and expo. The event also recognized that one out of every 18 women in the United States owns a business.

"(Women-owned firms) are growing in sectors that nobody thought they would grow," said Ruben Garcia, district director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Garcia spoke of his own mother, a Latina business owner, as an inspiration for his work in the SBA.

The keynote speaker for the event was Kendra Todd, Season 3 winner of "The Apprentice" television show hosted by Donald Trump. Todd is also president of My House Real Estate and author of "Risk and Grow Rich," a guide to success in real estate.

"When people tell you you're crazy, you're on the right track," she said, repeating a piece of advice she had received from Trump.

The event honored Diane Powers, founder of Bazaar del Mundo in Old Town 35 years ago.

WBCC Award recipients were given to **Alliance Engineers**, **Stella's Vanilla Gourmet Fudge**, **Better Body Works**, **R+evolution Wear** and **MaternityCare Direct**.

Staples, a co-sponsor of the event, also doled out cash awards. The Microbusiness Expansion Award went to **Stacy May Photography**, the Outstanding Emerging Business Award to **Creative Decorators**, and the Outstanding Established Business Award to **JDS Productions**.

The expo exhibited more than 100 small businesses.

The WBCC is a program sponsored by the SBA and has operated under the wing of National University.