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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lone Star College announces 2016 Small Business Award Finalists**

HOUSTON(Sept. 20, 2016)– The Lone Star College-Small Business Development Center Advisory Council named 18 finalists for the 30th Annual Small Business of the Year awards.

“Lone Star College is delighted to recognize these businesses,” said Glea Ramey, SBDC Advisory Council nominations chairman. “Small businesses contribute to local economies by bringing growth and innovation to the community.”

BBVA Compass, the fourth largest bank in Houston with more than 70 branches in the greater Houston area, is one of the nation's leading Small Business Administration lenders, and is the title sponsor of the awards for the fourth year in a row.

"Small businesses play a key role in the economic vitality of communities across our country," said Jennifer Dominiquini, BBVA chief marketing and digital sales officer. "BBVA Compass is proud to recognize the valuable contributions and the bright futures of these courageous entrepreneurs who make a positive impact in our communities."

Nominees for the award were gathered from members of the local community, business leaders and civic organizations. Three finalists were selected from each of the six Lone Star College locations on the basis of leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, business growth and contribution to the community.

All 18 finalists will be recognized during a luncheon Oct. 21. Winners of the LSC-SBDC award will be honored Nov. 17 at the 2016 30th Annual Small Business of the Year awards banquet. Both events will be held at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott.

The finalists of the 30th Annual Small Business of the Year are:

* From LSC-CyFair: AAA Plumbers, Steve Park and Cesar Lima; Nightlight Pediatric Urgent Care, Zawadi Bryant, Anastasia Gentles and Consuelo Cazares; Mathnasium of Cy-Fair, John and Dr. Catherine Labuda.
* From LSC-Kingwood: Minuteman Press, Humble, Texas, Connie and Darryal Chandler; JLA Realty, John and Kelly Altic; Sullivan’s Advanced Paint & Body, Danny Sullivan.
* From LSC-Montgomery: Efficient Wealth Management, Paul Carroll and Elizabeth Brady; Mr. Rooter Plumbing, Roger Goertz and Natalie Saikowski Goertz; Better Bookkeepers, Melanie Bush and Barry Blanton.
* From LSC-North Harris: Mirror Lake Designs, Michael Shawn Kelly and Blinda Ann Kelly; Wright Business Technologies, Jennifer Wright and Stephen, Wright, Jr.; Office Systems of Texas, George Peckham.
* From LSC-Tomball: Cy-Fair Coatings, Inc., Cheryl Shuck; Cisco’s Salsa Co., Laura Wilson and Dennis Henderson; Massage Envy Tomball and Teas Crossing, Mack and Michelle Miller.
* From LSC-University Park: Basel’s All-Star Gymnastics & Cheer, John and Kristen Basel; Shredding on the Go, James Parker; Hasta La Pasta Italian Grill, Alan and Jeff Smith.

For tickets or more information about the awards banquet, call the LSC-SBDC at 832.813.6674.

**About Lone Star College-Small Business Development Center**

The LSC-SBDC works with entrepreneurs and existing companies to help them evolve to the next level of business in today's global economy. SBDC services are available for companies in every phase of the business life cycle, helping entrepreneurs make sound decisions and succeed. [Click here](http://www.lonestar.sbdcnetwork.net/lonestar/default.asp) to learn more about LSC-SBDC.

**About BBVA Compass**

BBVA Compass is a Sunbelt-based financial institution that operates 672 branches, including 341 in Texas, 89 in Alabama, 77 in Arizona, 62 in California, 45 in Florida, 38 in Colorado and 20 in New Mexico, and commercial and private client offices throughout the U.S. BBVA Compass ranks among the top 25 largest U.S. commercial banks based on deposit market share and ranks among the largest banks in Alabama (2nd), Texas (4th) and Arizona (5th). BBVA Compass has been recognized as one of the leading small business lenders by the Small Business Administration, and its mobile app recently earned the Mobile Banking Leader in Functionality Award for the second consecutive year from Javelin Strategy & Research. Additional information about BBVA Compass can be found at [BBVACompass.com](http://www.bbvacompass.com/), by following [@BBVACompassNews](http://www.Twitter.com/bbvacompassnews) on Twitter or visiting newsroom.bbbvacompas.com.

**About Lone Star College**

Known for its leadership, innovation and steadfast commitment to student success, Lone Star College provides high-quality academic transfer and workforce education / career training programs to more than 85,000 credit students each semester, and a total enrollment of 98,000 students. LSC is training tomorrow’s workforce today and redefining the community college experience to promote student success and economic prosperity. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., is the chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area, which consists of six colleges, eight centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more visit [LoneStar.edu](http://lonestar.edu).

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