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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Breaking Ground Contracting Company President, Mary Tappouni, named 2009 Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Florida



Jacksonville, FL March 10, 2009 - Breaking Ground Contracting Company, a commercial general contracting firm headquartered in Jacksonville, FL, is pleased to announce that company president, Mary Tappouni, has been named the 2009 Small Business Person of the Year for the State of Florida by the US Small Business Administration.

“We are proud of Ms. Tappouni’s accomplishments and of her commitment to small business and environmentally friendly practices. Especially during these tough economic times,” says Wilfredo J. Gonzalez, SBA District Director. “In its 11th year, Breaking Ground has grown from one to nine full time employees and increased revenues more than 3 fold since 2004 – averaging 56% growth each year.”

Breaking Ground Contracting Company believes their focus on sustainable construction has greatly benefitted their growth over the past several years. Ms. Tappouni has blended her passion for the built environment with a commitment to sustainability and has set the standard for corporate social responsibility in North Florida. The firm has a strong focus on educating members of the industry in sustainable design and construction practices through their Education Services division which has already trained over 500 students this year. They are recognized for excellence in general contracting, construction management, and design build from their clients and peers.

The 2009 Small Business Person of the Year, Champion Small Business Owners and top SBA lenders will be recognized at the 17th Annual Small Business Week and Lender Awards Celebration on April 30, 2009 in Jacksonville at the University of North Florida's University Center from 1130am to 130pm. The event is hosted by the Small Business Development Center at UNF. For more information on this award ceremony, please visit www.sbdc.unf.edu. Small Business Week events will occur across the North Florida District.

About Breaking Ground Contracting Company

A State-of-Florida certified woman owned business, Breaking Ground Contracting Company is an award-winning, commercial general contractor providing quality construction services to both public and private clients. With demonstrated experience in professional and medical offices, institutional and government projects, parks and recreation, health and fitness facilities, historic renovations, environmentally-sensitive construction, as well as numerous specialty projects, Breaking Ground offers clients the solutions they need to reach their construction goals. Our portfolio includes new construction, renovations, tenant build outs, and additions with services in general and sustainable (LEED) construction, pre-construction, design/build and construction management. Breaking Ground Contracting Company is a leader in sustainable construction through our commitment to high performance building and environmentally conscious practices. We have received generous recognition from our clients in both public and private sectors including owners' representatives, architects, engineers and fellow contractors. For more information on Breaking Ground Contracting Company, please visit their website at www.breakinggroundcontracting.com or contact Ellen Leroy-Reed at (904) 388-1350.

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