



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) Named
Maine SBA's 2019 Financial Services Champion**

BRUNSWICK, Maine – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) was named the “2019 Financial Services Champion of the Year” by the Maine District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The honor was presented during Wednesday night’s SBA Small Business Awards Celebration in Freeport, which recognized individuals and businesses making a positive economic impact in Maine.

Among the criteria used to select MTI were the amount and quality of assistance given to small businesses to obtain financing, advocacy for changes to assist small companies, encouragement of the flow of investment capital to small ventures and measurable accomplishments to advance small business interests.

MTI was nominated for the award by Steve Levesque of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRRA). MRRRA is the entity responsible for redeveloping the former Naval Air Station in Brunswick that now hosts 120 businesses that support over 1,800 jobs.

“I want to express my deep appreciation to former Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, Steve Levesque for nominating MTI for this recognition,” **said Brian Whitney, MTI’s President.** “He was part of a team of visionaries who conceived of, and created, MTI during the King Administration 20 years ago. “Levesque mentioned recently that it’s extremely gratifying for him to see what MTI has become, because it has exceeded all his original expectations.”

The award comes after a historic year for MTI in which the organization invested over \$57 million in 175 projects. That funding effort is projected to create over 5,300 jobs in Maine and create \$1.4 billion in economic impact over the next three years.

“Without question, MTI’s organizational success is the culmination of the work and commitment of its incredible 15-person Board led by Chair Donna Cassese and Vice Chair Sandy Spaulding, as well as its amazing professional staff and contractors, who are all deeply dedicated and passionate about MTI’s mission to support the success of entrepreneurs and innovative businesses in Maine,” said Whitney. “I also want to thank MTI’s Technology Board members, a group of 100+ subject matter experts who give freely of their time and expertise to help MTI review and evaluate funding proposals.”

Whitney continued, “I also want to express gratitude to the SBA for this accolade. I truly value MTI’s wonderful collaboration with Maine District Office Director Amy Bassett and her entire team. MTI looks forward to continuing its economic development work and strengthening and diversifying Maine’s economy.”

Along with MTI, the following other award recipients were recognized:

Maine and New England Home Based Business of the Year — Katheryn Langelier, Herbal Revolution Farm & Apothecary LLC, of Union. **Maine Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Business of the Year** — Wade and Susan Kelly, Tylor Kelly Camps, of Allagash. **Maine Small Business Exporter of the Year** — Kathleen O’Heron, Jynx Productions LLC, of Yarmouth. **Maine Woman Owned Small Business of the Year** — Amber Elliott, Alternative Wellness Services of Biddeford. **Maine Young Entrepreneur of the Year** — Tyler Frank, Garbage to Garden, of Portland. **Maine Veteran Owned Small Business of the Year** — Brian Warren, The Village Woodworker, of Oxford. **Maine Minority Owned Small Business of the Year** — Ahmed Abbas, Ameera Bread LLC, of Portland. **Maine Micro-Enterprise of the Year** — Jill Miller, The Maine Pie Co., of Biddeford. **Maine Small Business Manufacturer of the Year** — Rebecca and Troy Delano, Alfred’s Upholstery & Co., of Alfred.

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The Maine Technology Institute is a publicly financed, private, nonprofit organization created by the Legislature in 1999 to stimulate research and development activity leading to the commercialization of new products, processes and services in the state’s seven targeted technology sectors. MTI programs are either loans, equity investments, or grants designed to enhance the competitive position of those sectors and increase the likelihood that one or more of these sectors will support clusters of industrial activity and create quality jobs across Maine. For information on MTI programs, events and resources, visit the Maine Technology Institute at www.mainetechnology.org.