



September 12, 2019

Contact: Jacquelyn Vasvari-Toke  
jtoke@tampachamber.com  
Office: 813.276.9492  
Cell: 609-784-2926

## Chamber Names Winners of the 2019 Small Business of the Year Awards

Tampa, Fla. – The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2019 Small Business of the Year Awards at a ceremony on Thursday, September 12 at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts. More than 500 attendees celebrated the accomplishments of Tampa Bay's small business community and toasted the evening's big winners.

This year's event was presented by Adcock Financial Group and Warren Averett and represents the 39<sup>th</sup> year the Chamber has recognized this key segment of the region's economy. Small business awards were presented in three categories based on the number of employees and a fourth business category honoring a startup company. Companies are evaluated on financial success, community involvement and ethical business practices. An award was also presented to the Outstanding Small Business Leader of the Year.

The 2019 Small Business of the Year Award winners are:

### **Outstanding Leader: Rita Lowman, Pilot Bank**

Rita Lowman is a 44-year banking veteran having served as the immediate Past Chair of the Florida Bankers Association. She and her bank are community focused working with small businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals in making their dreams become reality. Building partnerships within our community is a key focus for both Rita and Pilot Bank.

### **Startup: Newgentek**

Newgentek was founded to solve the challenges that multi-unit restaurant and retail operators have with the installation and ongoing support of their technology. Their expertise and relationships in those industries allowed them to quickly expand their client base to include corporate and enterprise clients, helping them design, install, and deploy workplace technology and collaboration tools. They now provide services and support to over 300 clients across the country.

### **5–20 Employees: Health Mutt**

Health Mutt is Tampa's premier natural pet market and dog wash. Their goal at Health Mutt is to provide quality pet supplies and healthy food at a great price. If they carry it, you can trust that it is good quality! In addition to their retail shop, they boast a spa-like self-service dog wash. They strive to treat every customer like family and want to meet you!

### **21–50 Employees: Atlas Professional Services**

Atlas Professional Services is a Tampa-based IT support company that serves small and mid-sized companies. As a Managed Service Provider (MSP), Atlas offers IT support services that include fully managed IT services, co-managed IT services, cloud computing services and customized IT services to meet clients' varied needs. The company focuses on serving businesses with 10 to 200 employees in the professional services sector.

### **51–250 Employees: First Citrus Bank**

First Citrus Bank is a \$400 million financial institution. To meet the often-overlooked capital needs of small business owners and professionals on a broader scale, the vision was to build a multi-billion-dollar world-class community bank, to enhance vibrancy throughout Tampa Bay. First Citrus was founded on a philosophy of Honor, Collaboration and Professionalism. From personal banking to business finance, they take an entrepreneurial approach to helping their clients succeed.

For more information on the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, please visit [www.tampachamber.com](http://www.tampachamber.com).

###