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# The SBA Reporter

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Seattle District Office | Spokane Branch Office | *Serving Washington State and Northern Idaho*

Feb. 8, 2017



## Ten Reasons We're Sweet on Washington Small Businesses

Small businesses are the heart of Washington's economy. This Valentine's Day, the [SBA Seattle District Office](#) is sending them this valentine with the top 10 reasons why we love small business.

### Small businesses in Washington...

1. *Care about their communities* – More than 574,400 small businesses are located in nearly every community and neighborhood in the state.
2. *Provide opportunities* – Washington small businesses employ 1.3 million people, or 51.4 percent of the private workforce.
3. *Create jobs* – Two out of every three new jobs created in the U.S. are from small businesses.
4. *Grow the global economy* – 89.7 percent of Washington exporters are small firms.
5. *Represent the diversity of America* – Approximately 92,700 small businesses in Washington are owned by minorities.
6. *Employ more than half the workforce* – Small businesses in Washington employed 1.3 million people in the state's private workforce in 2016.
7. *Lead the way for female entrepreneurs* – Self-employed women in Washington outpace the national number of self-employed women at 8.7 percent.
8. *Drive innovation* – Small patenting firms produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large patenting firms.
9. *Create opportunities for flexible work and lifestyles* – Home-based businesses account for 53 percent of all small businesses.
10. *Inspire us* – Small business owners work countless hours, sacrifice their personal time and assets, improve their communities and follow their dreams.

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Wednesday, March 1 is the last day to submit your application for the 2017 SBA-hosted free executive education "mini-MBA" program, Emerging Leaders.

[Apply here today.](#)

Need more info? Attend the [Feb. 13 Info Session Webinar.](#)



### Free Workshop Thursdays

Free workshop Thursdays are offered on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month. Classes held on the 2nd Thursday of the month are online webinars only. Classes on the 4th Thursday of the