

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NAWBO Charlotte Announces Business Woman of the Year and Rising Star at 2017 Annual Awards Gala

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 3, 2017 – Last night, NAWBO CHARLOTTE named Fabi Preslar Woman Business Owner and Carolina Aponte Rising Star at their 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women in Business Awards Gala. Ms. Preslar is Founder and President of SPARK Publications and Ms. Aponte is CEO of Caja Holdings. More than 100 attended the annual gala, which was held at The Charlotte City Club in Uptown.

Other finalists for this year's Woman Business Owner award included Rosa Dest, Rosa Dest Interiors; and Kim Brattain, Kim Brattain Media. Finalists for the Rising Star award included Stacey Brown Randall, Take Control of Your Days; and Mindy Hinson, M3 Real Estate Group.

"I want to offer congratulations to Fabi and Carolina, and all of the incredible women who were nominated, on behalf of myself and every member of our NAWBO Charlotte chapter," said Penny Benkeser, President of NAWBO Charlotte and owner of SERVPRO NW Charlotte, Lincoln and NE Gaston counties. "Fabi and Carolina are wonderful representatives of business owners in the Charlotte region, who are establishing and cultivating companies, creating job opportunities and contributing upwards of a billion dollars to North Carolina's economy."

The NAWBO Rising Star Award is presented to a NAWBO member who has shown the entrepreneurial creativity and determination to successfully manage a business that is less than five years old while the organization's Woman Business Owner Award recognizes a NAWBO member who has demonstrated strong leadership in growing and managing a successful business that is more than five years old, while also sharing her skills through volunteer and civic activities.

As Founder and President of 19-year-old SPARK Publications, Fabi Preslar oversees the Charlotte-based graphic design and custom publishing firm that specializes in the design of print and digital magazines, books, catalogs, and marketing materials. Clients include enthusiasts, trades, national associations and professionals. The firm was started as a home-based business and has moved, expanded, and restructured several times.

Carolina Aponte brings more than 20 years of experience serving clients both large and small to her role as CEO of Caja Holdings. Carolina divides her time between business development, client services, consulting and analysis. In a span of five years, Carolina has grown Caja Holdings' revenue an average of 40 percent for the past three years. Her business services multi-million dollar companies, law firms, and diverse small businesses and provides bookkeeping for local accounting firms.

Extended biographies of our winners and finalists can be found [on the NAWBO Charlotte web site](#).



**About NAWBO**

The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) started as an informal meeting of women business owners in the Washington, D.C. area who met to trade information about federal contracts, bank credit, and other business issues.

NAWBO's strength comes from the diversity of its membership – all sizes from sole proprietorship to hundreds of employees, every business industry from construction, importers, and retailers to service providers, and in all areas of the country.

Membership is open to sole proprietors, partners, and corporate owners with day-to-day management responsibility.

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