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Two from Charleston honored by SBA



Noah Leask, CEO of Ishpi Information Technologies

Staff report

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The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) gave awards to two Lowcountry businesspeople, the organization announced Tuesday.

Noah Leask, CEO of [Ishpi Information Technologies](#), won 2013 South Carolina Small Business Person of the Year; and Jennet Robinson Alterman, executive director of the [Center for Women](#), won 2013 South Carolina Women in Business, Advocate of the Year. This week, Alterman announced she was stepping down from the Center for Women at the end of the month.

The SBA gave Leask his award based on Ishpi's growth, job creation and community involvement. Leask started the company out of his home in 2006, and by 2008, the tech company made just under \$2 million in revenues. The next year, the Department of Defense cut one of Ishpi's contracts, forcing the company to lay off 30 employees. The company diversified its client base, and by 2012, the company had doubled revenues.

Ishpi employs 109 in Virginia, Texas and Mount Pleasant.

Alterman has worked with the Center for Women since 2001. Since her involvement began, the center has launched the Entrepreneurial Woman program and the Women in Business Conference with the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce.

The center has also won a SBA grant to open the [South Carolina Women's Business Center](#).



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Jennet Robinson Alterman, executive director of the Center for Women



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