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## The Gadsden Times

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# Chamber honors small businesses

By [Lisa Rogers](#)

Times Staff Writer

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Tina Gregerson, owner and president of Personnel Staffing Inc., was one of several small business owners recognized Wednesday by The Chamber of Gadsden and Etowah County.

The awards ceremony honored 17 businesses and business owners in Etowah County.

Donna Pruett of Pruett's Bar-B-Q, another honoree, summed up her appreciation to small businesses as she accepted an award.

"It's us that keep Gadsden a vibrant city," she said, referring to the small business owners and employees gathered for the 15th annual Small Business of the Year awards luncheon.

Gregerson's Personnel Staffing recently was chosen by Birmingham Business Journal as the best minority-owned business for 2008 in Alabama, said Tom Quinn, president of The Chamber.

PSI began in Gadsden and has expanded to include locations in Albertville, Anniston, Birmingham, Mobile and Beaumont, Texas.

"They are an example of how small business grows when the service and product are superior," Quinn said.

The Small Business of the Year awards were presented to several businesses from a large pool of nominated businesses, Quinn.

In addition to Pruett's Bar-B-Q, other winners included Holiday Inn Express; Pruitt Electric, LLC; the radio stations of WQSB, WKXX and WAVU; W-J Body Shop; Gadsden City Pharmacy; Christian Electric; Insurance Facilities Inc.; Hicks Shoes; Cycle World; K&K Financial Group; Gadsden Music Co.; Moultrie Toyota; Strut USA; Prestige Realty LLC; and Johnson's Giant Food.



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Tina Gregerson, CEO of Personnel Staffing, was presented an award Wednesday at The Chamber of Gadsden and Etowah County's annual small business awards luncheon at the Senior Activity Center.

Quinn, who has served as president of The Chamber and has a long career in chamber management in several cities, once owned a small business and talked about his experience at the meeting.

Small business makes up more than 90 percent of all businesses in the country, and The Chamber is trying to do a better job of serving small businesses in this community, he said.

Quinn talked about the ups and downs in the four years in which he owned a manufacturing business that made and sold fire extinguishers. He was left with a large debt that he repaid during the next 15 years.

"I just wanted all of you to know that I know your pain, when you have to meet a payroll and you don't know where the money is coming from; or how you have some piece of legislation that is passed that is bad for your business," he said.

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