



CONTACT:
Savannah Cruz
813.644.7443
pr@bkncreative.com

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May 2024

GTE FINANCIAL CELEBRATES LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES WITH NEW BUSINESS AMBASSADOR AWARD GRANT PROGRAM, AWARDING TWO \$5K GRANTS

TAMPA, FL, May 2024: Locally owned and operated credit union GTE Financial focuses on providing financial solutions, personal service, and exceptional value to small businesses. To celebrate local businesses in the Tampa Bay area, the credit union is thrilled to introduce its inaugural Business Ambassador Awards, a grant program dedicated to recognizing businesses that champion community well-being and create a positive impact on local economies. GTE is offering two \$5,000 grants to small businesses that have made a positive impact on their community and employees. The deadline to submit is July 1, 2024.

“At GTE Financial, we are beyond excited to recognize the incredible small businesses that form the backbone of our community. Through the Business Ambassador Awards, we are not just awarding grants; we’re investing in the dreams and efforts of local entrepreneurs,” comments Manny Aguilar, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial and Advisory Services Officer at GTE Financial. “We are wholeheartedly committed to a present and future where businesses and communities thrive together, fostering a legacy of shared prosperity and success. It’s more than just financial support—it’s about building a stronger, more connected community.”

The Business Ambassador Awards finalists will be invited to a cocktail hour and dinner on September 5, 2024, at the Tampa River Center, where two grant winners will be officially announced and honored. All applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of judges, and finalists will be selected by early August. To submit to the Business Ambassador Awards, visit gtefinancial.org/BusinessGrant.

About GTE Financial

GTE Financial is a not-for-profit financial cooperative located throughout West Central Florida with \$2.9 billion in assets and 24 Community Financial Centers. Chartered in 1935, GTE Financial is the official credit union of the Tampa Bay Lightning and is locally owned and operated in the Tampa Bay area, serving more than 230,000 individuals and businesses. For more information on GTE Financial, visit gtefinancial.org.

For more information, interviews, or media requests, please call (813) 644-7443 or email Savannah Cruz at pr@bkncreative.com.

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