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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **LaKeshia Grant named Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year for DC and SmartCEO Brava! Winner**

**WASHINGTON, DC, April 21, 2013** – LaKeshia Grant, CEO of Virtual Enterprise Architects (VEA), is named the Small Business Person of the Year for the District of Columbia by the Small Business Administration (SBA). She will be recognized on May 15-16, 2014 along with other Small Business Person of the Year winners from the 50 states, Puerto Rico and Guam during National Small Business Week. The SBA recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal successes and contributions to our nation.

As Ms. Grant states in her interview with the Kauffman Foundation and Khan Academy Entrepreneurship Series, her family instilled a spirit of entrepreneurship and a strong work ethic, which she believes has contributed to her success thus far. "We are in this together. We are a family" Ms. Grant states in response to how VEA has significantly grown due to her vision of a close knit family of employees, partners and clients. Ms. Grant was one of five founders recently added to the entrepreneurship series. Founders already featured in the series include Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group; Lara Morgan, founder of Pacific Direct; Marc Ecko, founder of Ecko Unlimited; T.A. McCann, founder and CEO of Gist; and Zach Kaplan, CEO of Inventables.

In addition to the great honor as one of the top 50 small businesses in the country and featured in the entrepreneurship series, Ms. Grant is also a 2014 Brava! Award winner by SmartCEO magazine. The Brava! Awards program celebrates female CEOs who combine their irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit with a passion for giving back to the community. Brava! Award winners are exemplary leaders of both their companies and their communities. Award winners encourage local philanthropy, mentor up-and-coming leaders and set their companies on the path to tremendous growth. SmartCEO magazine shares Ms. Grant's and other inspiring stories in the July/August issue of SmartCEO magazine and celebrates their success at an awards reception on July 30, 2014.

*To share in the excitement leading up to the events, follow us @virtual\_ea or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Virtual-Enterprise-Architects/241448865470>*

*For more information on the interview series or to view Ms. Grant's videos, go to: <https://www.khanacademy.org/r/entrepreneurship>*

#### **About Virtual Enterprise Architects**

Virtual Enterprise Architects, LLC (VEA) is a nationally recognized, certified 8(a), small disadvantaged, woman and minority owned HUBZone company that possesses a track record of delivering high quality EA (EA) and Information Technology (IT) related services to public and private clients. VEA's mission is to provide holistic consulting to integrate the strategy, business and technology needs of customers. VEA provides services throughout every level of the architecture to include: business, data, software, infrastructure and security services.

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