**Statement of Support**

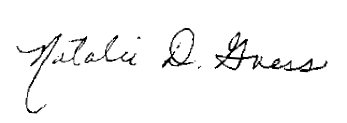
The Magnolia Business Alliance (MBA) would like to present Annie Beck, founder of Beck’s Confections as our candidate for the SBA InnovateHER Challenge. Annie Beck is a minority business woman on the gulf coast off Mississippi. Annie’s products which consist of homemade pies, seasoning blends and strawberry puree, hits the challenge criteria by delivering a direct impact on the lives of women and families by providing a product that is preservative free with the finest and freshest ingredients and is being sought after by many large grocery and supply stores.

Annie officially became an entrepreneur in 2005. One year after her divorce, she was ready for a dramatic change. Besides having the full responsibility of taking care of four children, her drive was the fear of being nothing. So the question was how can she take care of her family, while yet embracing her skills and talents as a cook and food creator? Taking the skills obtained in 20 years of the retail world, she embraced the idea of owning her own business. In 2005 she became a franchisee of Subway Inc. which was truly an incredible accomplishment in her life. She was able to make her first million in sales, after her first two years in business. After that, she grew to build her own business from the ground up, Café Bayou. Café Bayou allowed her to showcase her grandmothers traditional cooking and her own self creations of culinary delight. At the time, she didn't know it would become the inroad to Beck's Confections. Now serving 110 stores in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana since its birth in 2013, Beck's Confections is flourishing. As a food manufacturer, Beck's Confections can now share it’s creations on a much broader stage. She now services Kroger's, Winn-Dixie, McDade’s Supermarket, and MGM Grand casinos, just to start. She is truly excited about the accomplishments that she has made in such a short period of time, but recognizes she still have a long way to go.

As with all growth, there are a few challenges. For Annie, at Beck's Confections, she needs to expand, acquire more equipment and hire up to 25 new employees to service the contracts she is being presented with. This funding opportunity would help satisfy a great need that she is facing right now.

Beck’s Confections is gearing up for a phenomenal 2016. She has been given the opportunity to service all 1000+ Winn Dixie stores by years end, and is preparing for her first QVC debut.

Thank you for your consideration,



Natalie D. Guess

Director, Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions

Magnolia Business Alliance