Every successful business starts with an idea. For over 50 years the Small Business Week has recognized the importance of America’s entrepreneurs and small business owners. Statistically speaking, small business owners contribute over half of America’s workforce. It is important to recognize the impact of these outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners as they are a driving force for our country.

Coincidentally, during this year’s Small Business Week, MCSC’s Women’s Business Center had the honor of being a part of a local success story. Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert of Connoisseur Creations Inc. received the SBA’s 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year award on May 6th, 2019!

Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert of Los Osos, California launched their flagship product, the Quick Pickle Kit after starting their Woman-Owned Small Business Connoisseur Creations in 1996. After struggling with weight issues, Andrea wanted to develop a healthy alternative snack that would help people in similar situations. The Quick Pickle Kit is a safe Quick, Simple, Natural way to make delicious pickles in the comfort of your own home. Using 100-year-old family recipes, Andrea and Megan were able to create a healthy, low-sodium, low-calorie, hunger satisfying and delicious snack. Connoisseur Creations values their local community by providing jobs to developmentally challenged adults and by donating 10% of its proceeds to nonprofit agencies.

Andrea first sought out help from MCSC Women’s Business center back in 2007. The WBC was able to assist Connoisseur Connections by helping them in settling into their new headquarters in the Central Coast and connecting them with proper production facilities. With Andrea’s small business expertise, she was quickly recruited to be a consultant for MCSC Women’s business center. For 6 years, Andrea helped local entrepreneurs kick-start their businesses, providing her small business expertise to Central Coast small business owners and entrepreneurs.

For over 30 years now, Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert have been developing and launching new products. “We are grateful to the SBA and MCSC’s Women’s Business Center for their support of QuickPickleKit.com,” said Andrea Wasko and Meaghan Gilbert. “We are honored to be recognized as the SBA’s 2019 Small Business Persons of the Year and appreciate the opportunity to advocate for other women-owned businesses.”. With Andrea’s drive, leadership and consulting experience along with Meaghan’s innovation and new product development expertise, this dynamic duo was bound to be an entrepreneurial success. Congratulations!