

NEWS RELEASE



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VETERANS IN BUSINESS NETWORK AND EYEGATE DESIGN WIN BRONZE STEVIE® AWARD IN 2020 STEVIE AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women Around the World to Be Recognized During Virtual Event

San Diego, CA - Veterans in Business (VIB) Network, and partner, Eyegate Design, have been named the winner of a Bronze Stevie® Award for the Event of the Year category in the 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business.

The Stevie Awards for Women in Business honor women executives, entrepreneurs, employees, and the companies they run – worldwide. The Stevie Awards have been hailed as the world’s premier business awards. Winners will be celebrated during a virtual awards ceremony on Wednesday, December 9.

More than 1,500 entries were submitted this year for consideration in more than 100 categories. The Eyegate Design + VIB Network team won the Bronze for Event of the Year for the VIB Network’s Virtual Conference promotions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fourth annual conference (normally in-person) was transformed into a two-day virtual event, packed with business seminars, networking and matchmaking, learning opportunities from expert panelists, and more. The winning event’s promotional video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtIsEWc9eF8>.

“We are honored to receive this award that recognizes our efforts to promote our annual event that had to be modified for today’s minimal contact dynamic,” said Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, Executive Director of VIB Network. “We worked tirelessly to plan and organize a virtual event that was full of priceless opportunities and information, had a ton of value – and still had elements of fun to keep our audience engaged. We’re thrilled with the outcome!”

Nearly 600 registrants, including veteran business owners and representatives from corporations and government agencies from across the United States participated in the two-day event. The virtual conference was staged and produced from the Kona Kai Resort in San Diego, California, where last

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2-2-2 VETERANS IN BUSINESS NETWORK AND EYEGATE DESIGN WIN BRONZE STEVIE® AWARD

year's in-person annual event also was held. The audio visual team from the Kona Kai, Innovative Presentations, also was instrumental in the success of the event. A virtual happy hour with Army Green Beret veteran, Robert Schaefer (now a partner with Horse Solider Bourbon), and Navy SEAL veteran, Ty Smith, rounded out day one. A live virtual concert with Marine veteran Derrick Harris and his band, "All The Vibes," was the grand finale on day two.

"It is so rewarding to see how creativity, vision, and hard work can benefit so many people," said Kim Murray, owner of Eyegate Design. "As a military spouse, this community is important to me and my family. I'm grateful to be partnering with the VIB Network, and designing for such a progressive organization that truly has their customers' best interests in mind. We have made a huge difference together over the past four years – and we're just getting started!"

For a brief tour of the dynamic virtual conference platform, conference welcome from VIB Chairman, Cole Woodman, a word from title sponsor, T-Mobile, and an overview of previous annual conferences, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=769azNAOlas>.

Details about the Stevie Awards for Women in Business and the list of Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners in all categories are available at www.StevieAwards.com/Women. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stevie Award winners were determined by the average scores of more than 180 business professionals around the world, working on seven juries.

About VIB Network

The Veterans In Business (VIB) Network is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that advocates for all Veteran Businesses including SDVOSBs and DVBEs. They help build connections between Veteran Businesses, Corporations, Government Agencies, and Prime Contractors looking to create partnerships for contracting opportunities. VIB provides free business resources, educational seminars, outreach opportunities, and a Veteran 2 Veteran Business Cohort Program. Their National Conference is widely considered one of the best Veteran business networking events in the country.

About Eyegate Design

Eyegate Design is a full-service design company, specializing in graphic design services, website development, and promotional video production. Owner, Chula Vista resident Kim Murray, is an active-duty Navy spouse and veteran business advocate.

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