

2014

Minority Business Advocate of the Year



Austal USA

With millions of dollars in military contracts and more than 4,100 employees, Austal USA's commitment to working with minority companies is evident by the purchasing goals the company sets each year.

Austal USA was selected to receive the 2014 Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award. The annual award was renamed to honor James for his role in advancing minority-owned companies.

Austal has a small business liaison who participates in procurement matching events, trade shows and training sessions, reaching out

to small, disadvantaged, women-owned, Native American, Veteran and service-disabled-owned local businesses. One example is Mobile-based Rubber Hose and Gasket. With Austal's orders, the company's volume increased more than 30 percent, additional employees were hired and an on-site facility was set up at the Austal yard.

The company was presented the award in October at the Chamber's Minority Business Awards luncheon. At the event, the Chamber also honored Leaf and Petal Florist & Gift Shop and Ranger Industrial Services with the Eagle Award.