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## PRESS RELEASE

### **CORLISS UDOEMA SELECTED AS THIRD RUNNER-UP FOR THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S (SBA) 2017 NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**

On Monday, May 1, 2017, Ms. Corliss Udoema, President and CEO of Contract Solutions, Inc. (CSI) was announced as Third Runner-Up for the US Small Business Administration's (SBA) National Small Business Person of the Year. In an event held at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, Ms. Udoema was honored by Vice President Michael R. Pence and SBA Administrator Linda McMahon.

Previously, Ms. Udoema had been selected by the SBA as the 2017 Virginia Small Business Person of the Year. Ms. Udoema was notified of this award through a letter from the recently confirmed SBA Administrator, Linda McMahon. The letter states that Ms. Udoema was selected because: "Your hard work, innovative ideas, and dedication to your employees and community have helped you build an outstanding business that has strengthened your state's economy. The SBA is pleased to celebrate your achievements and recognize your personal role in driving our nation's economic growth." In a ceremony on May 4<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Udoema received her award from Mr. Carl Knoblock, Richmond, Virginia SBA District Director.



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Prior to Ms. Udoema's selection as the Virginia State Small Business Person of the Year, the last Virginia State winner from Prince William County was in 2004. A Virginia State company has not been recognized for a national award since 2008.

Ms. Udoema is the founder, President, and CEO of Contract Solutions, Inc. (CSI), an international staffing and consulting professional support services company. After a successful thirty-two-year career with the federal government in various executive-level national and international contracting and procurement positions, she retired and founded CSI in 2006. Over the past eleven years, Ms. Udoema has grown CSI from a sole proprietorship with a one-person National Park Service contract which she supported working from her kitchen table, into a highly successful small business with a wide array of federal and state government, and private sector contracts and clients. Some of CSI's key clients include the U.S. Department of Treasury, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Defense Acquisition University. Ms. Udoema credits the SBA's programs with assisting her to take her company to the next level with respect to growth and the development of new long-term client relationships.

Ms. Udoema has taken a measured approach to CSI's growth by building and maintaining a debt free company, and increasing contracts and revenue slowly to ensure CSI can continue to deliver services with the excellence for which it is known. 2016 saw CSI's largest growth yet. In October, CSI was awarded a five-year services contract with the U.S. Department of Treasury, valued at \$40 million. This is a follow-on contract to previous work CSI completed for the Department of Treasury, and was awarded to CSI based upon its stellar reputation and its high quality of previous delivery. In fact, CSI received nearly \$50 million dollars in new contract awards in 2016. Due to continuing business and new contract awards, CSI's revenue increased 63% in 2016 in comparison to 2015, and has increased over 6100% over the past five years.

CSI is based in Manassas, Virginia, and has employees working in Virginia as well as throughout the country providing support in a variety of disciplines. CSI's primary areas of focus and expertise include but are not limited to: administrative and business services support; logistics support; acquisition support; and human resources support such as training and educational support, leadership development and general management consulting. CSI is recognized by its clients for its commitment to excellence, timely delivery, and teamwork. CSI was also recently recognized by the Washington Business Journal as one of the top thirty staffing companies in the Washington DC Metro area.



## Contract Solutions Inc.

Phone: 703.686.4846

[csi@contractsolutions-inc.com](mailto:csi@contractsolutions-inc.com)

[www.contractsolutions-inc.com](http://www.contractsolutions-inc.com)

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In addition to her entrepreneurial efforts, Ms. Udoema is inspired by people who dedicate their lives to helping others. As such, it is not surprising that she has always given back to the community in a big way. Most relevant, she is founder and President of Agape Love in Action (ALIA), a non-profit organization which she established to assist those in need. ALIA's activities - the brainchildren of Ms. Udoema - include "Hope in a Bag," which provides support and services for homeless shelter residents; a program which provides computer literacy training and computers to low-income senior citizens; funding to feed homeless Louisiana flood victims; and counseling for veteran-owned businesses.