



Dongan Hills printing firm honored by city for promoting local business

07-14-2011

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- CLR Printing Plus has been named the Staten Island winner of one of the five Small Business of the Year Awards, presented annually by the city in each borough.

A broker of commercial printing, the Dongan Hills firm is owned by Carol DiMarco, who was cited for promoting local businesses and jobs for young people.

"We believe in reaching out to the small-business owner or new entrepreneur in our community to help grow their business," said Ms. DiMarco. "We try to connect them with our high school students looking for work in hope they will be our future entrepreneurs."

Since 2002, the city's annual Neighborhood Achievement Awards program has honored businesses, groups and people who foster economic opportunity.

"I try to do a lot of networking — it does come

back," said Ms. DiMarco, who began her company in 2008 to facilitate printing and design work for businesses.

CLR Printing Plus is a three-person shop.

As a certified female-owned business, the Island company also has done work for the City Council, Board of Elections and CUNY schools.

To promote local commerce, Ms. DiMarco co-founded the Dongan Hills Merchants Society.

She is also a co-founder of Staten Island Career Coaches, a group started two years ago by business professionals to help mentor local students. It has held coaching sessions at McKee High School in St. George to provide students with the skills needed for such things as résumé writing and job interviews.

"The kids and the teachers have been really great," said Ms. DiMarco about the mentoring program.

For the second summer in a row, CLR Printing Plus is hosting and helping to train a student intern. In May, Ms DiMarco also received the 2011 Women's Business Advancement award presented by the Business Outreach Center Network, which helps small firms and entrepreneurs in the metropolitan area.