

Sweet Poppin's in 2011 Class of Emerging Business EDGE Award Winner

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Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC) announced the 2011 Class of Emerging Business EDGE Award winners which included Kokomo's own Sweet Poppin's. The ISBDC Economic Development & Growth through Entrepreneurship (EDGE) Award is given to their qualifying clients in two categories: Emerging or Established businesses. The 18 winners around the state collectively employ 60 fulltime employees and had nearly \$4 million in sales in 2010.

To qualify clients have to participate in ISBDC business counseling or programs; or use ISBDC tools and business resources. Recipients are selected locally by ISBDC staff who have worked directly with the businesses.

Sweet Poppin's owner, Tashia Johnson-St. Clair, attended many ISBDC trainings, workshops and seminars including the Collegiate Management Program at IU – Kokomo. "The ISBDC helped me with product pricing, cash flow projections, locating suppliers and retail demographic information," said Ms. Johnson-St. Clair "Their assistance and training has helped me expand my business and open a retail store in downtown Kokomo."

Sweet Poppin's located in downtown Kokomo at 107 E. Sycamore Street has had products promoted at the Kentucky Derby, Indiana Black Expo, the Soul Train Music Awards and will be featured in a 2011 motion picture.

LINK - http://kokomoperspective.com/news/local_news/sweet-poppin-s-in-class-of-emerging-business-edge-award/article_a88a4cfe-3a10-11e0-8572-001cc4c03286.html