



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singh receives top honors as Cleveland recipient of ATHENA Award

September 1, 2004; Cleveland, Ohio – **Rita N. Singh**, Founder and Managing Partner/CPA of S&A Consulting Group LLP, received top honors as the Cleveland recipient of the 2004 **ATHENA® Award** on August 26 at an awards dinner held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence.

Singh received honors together with Dr. Carol Cartwright, President of Kent State University, who received the ATHENA Award for the Akron community. They were highlighted along with nine 2004 ATHENA Finalists from Cleveland and Akron. Last year, Singh was recognized as a Finalist in the 2003 ATHENA Awards program.

Presented by *Inside Business* and the ATHENA Foundation for the second year, the Northeast Ohio event celebrates the women and men who shape leaders in the women-in-business community. The ATHENA Award recipients are selected for their professional excellence, community service and also for actively and generously assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence.

The ATHENA Award is named in recognition of the Greek goddess of wisdom and courage. Today, the ATHENA Foundation (www.athenafoundation.org) is an established international organization that has recognized thousands of women and men for helping women reach their full leadership potential.

Singh has supported the endeavors of women entrepreneurs throughout her career on a personal, business and community level. She consistently gives her time doing educational seminars for women's groups to help them set their individual goals and objectives and succeed. She speaks to women to encourage them to lead a respectful, honorable life and to achieve balance between family, business, volunteer and social goals.

To Singh, being a mentor is not only sharing her knowledge, but also learning from those who she mentors. Singh volunteers to provide one-on-one consultations, seminars and other community activities that help to promote the interests of minority business owners. Since Singh is from India, she truly sees being a minority as an opportunity rather than a weakness, and she instills this attitude among her minority clients.

She has initiated several programs through her company to offer free help for start-up or existing women business owners. This past year, Singh donated a portion of funds received from the Council of Smaller Enterprises' Business Plan Challenge competition to the Women Business Owners Foundation of NAWBO (the National Association of Women Business Owners) to assist the women business owners who have financial hardship with free membership in the association.

Singh participates in the Women's City Club of Cleveland's year-long pilot program to mentor college women with the hope of retaining them as employed professionals in the Greater Cleveland area after graduation.

In addition, Singh hosts a luncheon series called "Make Your Business Blossom" where she invites local business people and speaks on such topics including "Winning Tax Strategies" and "Women's Cultures: Obstacles & Challenges."

Singh is an active member of various regional and national women organizations including: Women City Club of Cleveland; Women in Network; National Association of Women Business Owners; Association of Asian Indian; Women in Ohio; Professional Women Institute; In Counsel With Women; Women in International Trade; and, National Association of Female Executives.

Singh resides in Pepper Pike, Ohio, with her husband and business partner, Nipendra (Nip), and their two daughters.

Based in Beachwood, Ohio, S&A Consulting Group LLP is a consulting firm specializing in Global Resource Management Development, Accounting, Taxation, Finance, Marketing of Technology Products, Manufacturing/Engineering Quality Systems, IT and customized services for particular project situations and needs.