



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Cynthia Castillo Named NFTE Locally Grown Entrepreneur**

**Washington, DC** – Cynthia Castillo, president and CEO of CSSI, Inc., was recently named a “Locally Grown Entrepreneur” by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

Six local business owners – all of whom have built companies in the Washington region and have made significant contributions to their individual communities – were selected to receive the honor. Other honorees included Jim Bognet, president of Bognet Construction Associates, Peter Corbett, CEO of iStrategy Labs, Heidi Kallett, CEO of The Dandelion Patch, Davon Kelly, CEO of Novad Consulting, and Tien Wong, CEO of Lore Systems.

“All of this year’s Honorees have made significant contributions to the Greater Washington community, promised strong mentorship for our students, and inspired us with their entrepreneurial endeavors and successes,” said Julie Silard Kantor, Executive Director of NFTE, DC Region. “We are thrilled to engage them in NFTE’s mission to provide programs that inspire young people from low-income communities to stay in school, leverage business opportunities and plan for their futures.”

**About NFTE**

Since 1987, NFTE has been inspiring young people to pursue educational opportunities, start their own businesses, and succeed in life. By providing entrepreneurship education programs relevant to the real world, NFTE empowers students to own their educations in and out of the classroom and to find their own path to success. Hundreds of thousands of students have discovered opportunity all around them through entrepreneurship via thousands of certified educators worldwide.

NFTE supports active programs in 21 states and 10 other countries through a network of program offices and licensed partners. More than 24,000 DC youth have participated in NFTE through their schools. Entrepreneurs are a powerful driver of economic growth and NFTE sows the seeds of innovation in students worldwide. For more information, visit [www.nfte.com](http://www.nfte.com).

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***About CSSI.** CSSI is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary firm with leading-edge skills in engineering, information technology, safety management and applied research. Serving the aerospace, defense, and transportation sectors, CSSI is committed to its customers and to delivering strong leadership, sound solutions, and innovative thinking. For more information, visit [www.cssiinc.com](http://www.cssiinc.com).*

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