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*NJAWBO News Release*

## **SEED GRANT AWARDED TO LOCAL BUSINESSWOMAN**

SPARTA – (August 25, 2010) – Local businesswoman, Sherri Putnam of Sparta, was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place honors in NJAWBO's Women's Business Center's S.E.E.D. Grant competition for her business, HCI Consulting, LLC, which specializes in the implementation, training, and support of NextGen Healthcare Information Systems Electronic Health Records and practice management software.

The competitive grant program is funded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and targets women desiring to open new small businesses in the state. Participants attended a series of classes and seminars offered throughout the state, wrote their business plan, and the finalists orally presented the plan to the Judging Committee – Amy Lewis, Assistant Vice President, TD Bank and Mary Adelman, Assistant Director, NJSBDC-Centenary College. Awards included cash, professional services and membership in the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners.

The Women's Business Center is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, as well as other corporate sponsors. Center Director Penni Nafus adds, "The main goal of this project was to provide the tools for women to become self-sufficient by owning and successfully operating their own businesses, thereby investing financially, intellectually and emotionally in their community."

**For more information, please visit our website, [www.njawbo.org/wbc](http://www.njawbo.org/wbc), telephone the Women's Business Center at 973-507-9700 or e-mail us at [wbcdirector@njawbo.org](mailto:wbcdirector@njawbo.org).**

\*Award photo available electronically upon request.\*

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