

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, May 16, 2005

**ARLINGTON'S TRAVEL PARTNERS, INC. WINS ABBIE**  
Award-winning Growth of Local Travel Agency Proves Need for Agents  
Remains

(Arlington, VA) – May 16, 2005 – On Friday, May 13, 2005, Travel Partners, Inc. and President Joan Porte were announced as one of eight winners of the 2005 Arlington Best Business Award (ABBIE). The winners—four large business and four small business— were selected from a field of 25 nominees and announced May 13 at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ABBIES in Arlington.

"Of course I'm thrilled to have been nominated and recognized by my fellow Arlington business owners," says Joan Porte, president of Travel Partners, Inc. "But what I find even more rewarding is the fact that I'm a travel agency. Many businesses, industry experts and media would have said a travel agency couldn't survive in today's Internet world. But my clients are living proof that savings can indeed be realized—in time, money and stress levels—by booking their work, vacation or honeymoon travel through an agent. There is a place in today's economy for creative, resourceful and responsible travel agents."

ABBIES are awarded by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to viable, on-going, full-time businesses that have experienced significant growth or stability over the life of the business. Winners must be well-respected by their customers or clients, and recognized as consistently delivering exceptional quality or services. ABBIE winners also must display an interest in and concern for the Arlington community.

Founded in 1986, Travel Partners, Inc. ([www.joanstravelpartners.com](http://www.joanstravelpartners.com)) specializes in travel to Australia, the South Pacific, Scandinavia, Italy, France, Great Britain, Holland, Switzerland, the Cayman Islands, and Puerto Rico.

President Joan Porte is a Certified Travel Associate (CTA), Certified Travel Counselor (CTC) by the International Airline Travel Association. (IATA), and specialist in luxury, spa, Club Med and Sandals Super Clubs travel. Travel Partners can be reached at 703-522-3302 or joanstravel@verizon.net.

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