

Melinda F. Emerson, SmallBizLady, is America's #1 small business expert. She is an author, speaker and small business coach whose areas of expertise include small business start-up, business development and social media marketing. As CEO of Quintessence Multimedia, Melinda develops audio, video and written content to help her Fortune 500 clients engage small business customers. She is a weekly columnist for the *You're The Boss* blog for *The New York Times*. She publishes a resource blog, www.succeedasyourownboss.com which is syndicated by the Huffington Post and hosts a weekly talk show on Twitter called #SmallBizChat for today's entrepreneurs. She reaches 1.5 million small business owners weekly on the internet. *Forbes Magazine* named Melinda Emerson #1 Woman for Entrepreneurs to follow on Twitter. Melinda has been featured on MSNBC, Fox News, NBC Nightly News and in *The Washington Post*, *Fortune*, *Essence* and *Black Enterprise*. She is also the author of the bestselling book *Become Your Own Boss in 12 months; A Month-by-Month Guide to a Business That Works*. Melinda is a graduate of Virginia Tech.