



For Immediate Release:
April 23, 2007

Contact: Tambra Stevenson
Phone: (202) 482-6274
Email: tstevenson@mbda.gov

MBDA National Director Langston Salutes Small Businesses during National Small Business Week 2007

WASHINGTON, DC —The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), U.S. Department of Commerce, joins the U.S. Small Business Administration in saluting small business owners during National Small Business Week from April 22-28, 2007.

The Week kicks off with a conference held in the Ronald N. Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC from April 23-24th. During the *2007 Small Business Week National Awards Luncheon*, MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston will provide remarks to the attendees. The awards luncheon honors procurement, lender, disaster recovery, and state small business award winners

“Small and minority owned businesses are the heart of American job growth and an American tradition that MBDA is proud to salute. Everyday we see the spirit of entrepreneurship alive with more Americans starting new businesses, expanding their enterprises and successfully competing in a global marketplace,” said Ronald N. Langston, MBDA National Director.

According to the U.S. Census’ *2002 Survey of Business Owners*, the growth of minority-owned firms has outpaced the national rate. Between 1997 and 2002, the number of minority-owned firms increased 35 percent compared to 10 percent for all U.S. classifiable firms. Gross receipts for minority firms grew by 13 percent during this same timeframe, which surpassed the growth rate for all U.S. firms.

MBDA has more than 40 minority business centers to provide one-on-one management and technical assistance for entrepreneurs. The Agency also redesigned its website which has online resources and tools to help business owners develop business plans, find contract opportunities and identify prospective business partners.

###

About the Minority Business Development Agency, US Department of Commerce

Founded in 1971 and headquartered in Washington, DC, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. MBDA is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in this Nation. The Agency actively promotes the strategic growth and competitiveness of minority business enterprises by offering management and technical assistance and access to contracting and financing opportunities through a network of forty local business centers throughout the United States.