



# News Release

409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210 ★ Washington, DC 20024 ★ 202-205-3850 (p) ★ 202-205-6825 (f) ★ [www.nwbc.gov](http://www.nwbc.gov)

**For Release On:**  
April 21, 2003

**Contact:** Stephanie Peacock,  
(202) 205-6827  
[stephanie.peacock@sba.gov](mailto:stephanie.peacock@sba.gov)

## Karen Kerrigan Named to National Women's Business Council

**Washington, DC** – Karen Kerrigan, president and CEO of Women Entrepreneurs, Inc. (WE Inc.), has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council.

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. The Council is committed to:

- *Conducting* research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations;
- *Communicating* these findings widely;
- *Connecting* the women's business community to public policy makers; and
- Providing programs and platforms for *change* in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.

“As a respected advocate for women's entrepreneurship, Karen is the perfect addition to our Council,” said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. “Karen has long been involved in spearheading initiatives to enhance entrepreneurship. Her expertise and passion on this issue will contribute greatly to the Council's ambitious agenda.”

A well-known small business advocate, Kerrigan has developed relationships with key individuals in media, government and the private sector that have led to substantive reforms and initiatives to help America's entrepreneurial sector. As a small business owner, Kerrigan serves a variety of clients in the areas of marketing, research and analysis, and communications. She frequently testifies before Congress on issues that impact American entrepreneurship. Recently, she also helped launch “Women Entrepreneurship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” a

(continued)

groundbreaking summit in March 2002 where more than 1,500 women business owners gathered in Washington, DC to discuss their key concerns with our nation's leading political figures. The successful event was followed by other regional summits where Kerrigan also played a key organizing role. She founded the Small Business Survival Committee in 1994, a prominent small business advocacy organization with more than 70,000 members and she now serves as the group's Chairman. Kerrigan also served on the 2001 Bush Transition Advisory Committees for the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

*Fortune Small Business* named Kerrigan to its *Power 30* list of key advocates in Washington, DC in September 2000. In 1995, *National Journal* named her to its short list of "K Street" activists less than 40 years of age who were most likely to have an impact on Capitol Hill. Kerrigan's commentary and written work have appeared in *Investor's Business Daily*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Times*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *The Union Leader*, *The New York Post*, and scores of other prominent publications. For over eight years she has written a regular column, "Small Business Briefing" for the American City Business Journals. She also serves on the board of BIPAC – one of Washington's most powerful bipartisan PACs that works to elect pro-business candidates to Congress.

"I am enthusiastic for the opportunity to serve on the National Women's Business Council," said Kerrigan. "My goal on the Council will be to help fully support, in any way that is needed, the important projects and agenda currently underway to help women succeed in the risky but rewarding path of entrepreneurship. Chairman Nelson's vision in the mentoring arena is also very compelling to me. Support networks for early-stage women business owners only encourage more women to seek entrepreneurship as an option."

As the nation's advocate for the more than 9 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the Council supports increased access to affordable health care; access to capital; access to federal contracts and international markets; and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed.

Women business owners currently represent almost 38% of all U.S. firms, with a growth rate twice that of all businesses. They employ one out of every four company workers and contribute \$3.6 trillion in annual revenues.

###

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, contact: National Women's Business Council, 409 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825, e-mail: [nwbc@sba.gov](mailto:nwbc@sba.gov); [www.nwbc.gov](http://www.nwbc.gov).

