



News Release

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Ann Marie Almeida Named to National Women's Business Council

Washington, DC—Ann Marie Almeida, President and CEO of the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC), has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council as the representative of the AWBC.

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.

"I am delighted to welcome Ann Marie Almeida to the National Women's Business Council," said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. "The network of Women's Business Centers across the nation is an invaluable resource for women business owners. Ann Marie's insights and energy will most certainly help the NWBC continue to foster women's entrepreneurship. I am grateful for her service and confident that our work will be strengthened by her contributions."

The Association of Women's Business Centers' vision is a world where economic justice, wealth and well-being are realized through the collective leadership and power of entrepreneurial women by developing and strengthening a global network of women's business centers to advance the growth and success of women business owners. As President and CEO of the AWBC, Ann Marie Almeida directs training, mentoring, funding and research programs that foster prosperity, encourage entrepreneurship, support economic access and empower leadership among women entrepreneurs.

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Previously, Almeida served as the Director of Programs and Development for the Camden Public Library in Camden, Maine. In this capacity, Almeida oversaw the development and implementation of over 175 annual educational, cultural and technological programs while also directing fundraising activities and annual giving strategies and programs, as well as marketing, media and public relations activities. Almeida also served as a consultant to the Camden Public Library Foundation where she provided financial, development and policy expertise to foundation trustees regarding the institution's long-term growth and direction.

Almeida was the Director of Finance for Kodak's creative imaging programs, Director of Research for the Center for Venture Research, Adjunct Professor of Finance at the University of New Hampshire, Managing Director of the Kelmescott Rare Breeds Foundation, and both Vice President and Director of Finance for Maine Photographic and International Film and Television Workshops.

Almeida currently serves as a board and advisory member for several organizations, including the New England Time Dollar Network, The Crafts Center, Project Tsunami's Global Brain Trust, the Camden Conference on Foreign Affairs, and Mainely Girls, and she is the Community Chair for the YMCA's giving program. She is also a featured speaker on *Body and Soul*, a nationally syndicated PBS series, and a host sponsor for the Nieman Fellows program of Harvard University.

Almeida earned her MBA with a concentration in finance from The Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Speech Communications from Boston College.

"I am honored and extremely pleased to serve on the National Women's Business Council and join an amazing and dedicated group of entrepreneurial women," said Almeida. "One of my goals as a member of the Council is to make sure we keep an inclusive and long term vision on public policy matters that support the economically diverse and vibrant marketplace that women business owners represent."

As the Nation's independent advocate for the more than 10.6 million women and equally-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women's Business Council works to promote 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.

Majority and equally women-owned businesses currently represent almost 48% of all U.S. firms, employing 19.1 million people and contributing \$2.46 trillion in annual revenues.

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