



# News Release

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**For Release On:**  
April 29, 2004

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## Maria Taxman Named to National Women's Business Council

**Washington, DC**—Maria Guadalupe Taxman, President of Chesterfield Trading Ltd. and CEO and Co-Founder of Avanza Hispanic Marketing Specialists, has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council as the representative of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC).

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 Maria Taxman 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. "As a skilled and successful woman in business, Maria brings a wealth of valuable experience to the Council. I am enthusiastic for the opportunity to work with her and the other Council members as we move our agenda forward on behalf of the Nation's women business owners."

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) was incorporated in 1979, creating a structured organization aimed at developing a business network that would provide the Hispanic community with cohesion and strength. Since its inception, the USHCC has worked towards bringing the issues and concerns of the nation's more than 1.6 million Hispanic-

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owned businesses to the forefront of the national economic agenda.

Maria Taxman has more than 20 years of experience in international business, where she has implemented diverse marketing strategies, which have allowed her to successfully compete in foreign markets. She is a member of the board of directors of the USHCC and chairs the Region III and International Committee. In 2001, she coordinated the first-ever international business mission sponsored by the USHCC, which traveled to Costa Rica. In 2004, she is coordinating the USHCC International Business Conference to be held in Acapulco, Mexico.

Taxman is President of Chesterfield Trading, Ltd., an export and import company she founded in 1983, that specializes in the sale of tires, tubes and other related automobile products. She is also CEO and Co-founder of Avanza Hispanic Marketing Specialists, a consulting firm that helps corporations and not-for-profit organizations penetrate the U.S. Hispanic market. She is a member of the board of directors of the Permanent Secretariat of the Hemispheric Congress of Latin Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Miami, FL. Taxman has also served as Past President of the Sociedad Hispano-Americana of St. Louis and as Past Vice-President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis and is a current member of their board of directors. The Late President of Honduras, Carlos Roberto Reina, appointed Maria Taxman in 1994, as Honorary Consul of Honduras. She continues serving the Government of Honduras and its people from her office in St. Louis, Missouri.

She is the recipient of the 1999 St. Louis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's "Businesswoman of the Year Award" and recipient of the 2002 St. Louis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce "Member of the Year Award." In 2002, Taxman was recognized by *Hispanic Magazine* as one of the leading Latinas in the country. She is also the recipient of the "2003 U.S. Latin American Friendship Award," presented by *Hispanic Magazine*.

"I am honored and enthusiastic to serve on the National Women's Business Council," said Taxman. "One of my goals as a member of the Council will be to empower women in business and, in so doing, to help inspire women in Corporate America. Even though we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there still exists a myth that top positions are not suitable for us. By bringing awareness to the opportunities that entrepreneurship can bring to women, I plan to serve as a catalyst to women in business everywhere."

As the Nation's independent advocate for the more than 10.1 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.

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Majority and equally women-owned businesses currently represent almost 46% of all U.S. firms, employing 18.2 million people and contributing \$2.32 trillion in annual revenues.

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