



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: August 3, 2006
Release Number: 06-48

Contact: Tiffani S. Clements (202) 401-0035
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

Minority Small Business to be Honored as the Minority Small Business of the Year

One-Year Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina to be Recognized During MED Week

WASHINGTON – On the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Small Business Administration will kick off the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference by selecting one of 10 minority small businesses to be this year's national *Minority Small Business Person of the Year*.

The national winner is selected from among 10 regional winners this year representing Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Texas, Missouri, Colorado, California and Washington. The regional award winners have businesses that offer services ranging from corporate consulting to seminars and workshops on marriage and parenting, to the engineering and design of the Black Hawk aircraft for the U.S. armed forces.

The 24th annual MED Week conference will take place from Aug. 29-Sept. 1, in Washington, D.C., at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. MED Week is an event hosted by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

MED Week, held annually since 1983, recognizes minority businesses' contributions to the nation's economy. In a proclamation this year, President George W. Bush urged all Americans to join together in honoring minority entrepreneurs across the country in appropriate observances.

"We are celebrating the minority-owned and women-owned businesses that excelled in the business community and helped stimulate economic growth for the nation's economy," said SBA Administrator Steven Preston. On the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the SBA is also paying tribute to and remembering the people whose homes, lives and businesses were destroyed during the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes."

In addition to announcing the national minority small business award winner, the SBA will present other awards including the *SBA Administrator's Leadership* award and the *8(a) Graduate Firm of the Year* award.

This year's conference theme is "*Mastering the Supply Chain*." Successful supply chain executives from UPS, Tyco, FedEx, IBM and Wal-Mart will be on hand to educate small businesses on how to strengthen their position in the global and domestic supply chain and how to build and sustain quality relationships with suppliers, customers and clients. Other features of the conference include:

- A social capital power networking reception with George Frazer, founder of the PowerNetworking Conferences;

(more)

- An Emerging Business Leaders Summit for young entrepreneurs and business plan competition;
- Business-to-Business Linkage Forum where small businesses are paired with government agencies and private sector companies to discuss potential contracting opportunities;
- The SBA and MBDA will spearhead workshops entitled: *Gulf Opportunity Zone Tax Incentives, Entering the Franchise Supply Chain* and SBA's workshop: *Rebuilding the Gulf* to educate small businesses on how they can take part in the rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast, gain access to contracting opportunities and learn about tax incentives in the Gulf.

Senior staff from the Bush Administration will be present each morning for the *Meet Your White House* breakfast sessions. The conference will also provide opportunities to network at the MED Week 2006 Business Expo. There will be award ceremonies to honor minority entrepreneurs, minority business advocates and leaders in the corporate community.

Except for the Business Expo which will be held on Aug. 31 from 9:00-12:00 and 2:15-5:00, the conference is an invitation-only event. No walk-in registrations will be permitted and all events will be ticketed.

The 10 Regional Minority Small Business Persons of the Year are:

REGION I

Ariel Schmidt
President
Atlantic Graphic Services, Inc.
Clinton, MA

REGION VI

Patricia E. Adams
President
Zeitgeist Expression, Inc.
San Antonio, TX

REGION II

Mario Zacharjasz
President
Puente Construction Enterprise, Inc.
Woodbury, NJ

REGION VII

Herman Hanner
President/CEO
Professional Environmental Engineers, Inc.
St. Louis, MO

REGION III

Eli Valenzuela Jr.
President
First State Manufacturing, Inc.
Milford, DE

REGION VIII

David Phelps
President
Merlin International, Inc.
Greenwood Village, CO

REGION IV

Jose A. Diaz
President/CEO
DEI Services Corporation
Winter Park, FL

REGION IX

Yvonne Glenn
President
Trofholz Technologies, Inc.
Rocklin, CA

REGION V

Gary D. Davis
President
Davis & Associates
Indianapolis, IN

REGION X

Kathryn Hobbs
President
Media Logic
Bellevue, WA

For more details on this year's MED Week conference, please call 1-877-MEDWEEK or visit www.medweek.gov or www.sba.gov.

###