



For Immediate Release
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MBDA to Present Lifetime Achievement Awards at 25th Anniversary Award Gala

Gala is part of National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week

WASHINGTON, DC – The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), U.S. Department of Commerce will honor eleven individuals for their lifelong commitment to the advancement of minority business enterprise. The MBDA Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented at a gala dinner on the evening of September 14th at the historic Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. This activity will culminate the day-long Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference filled with captivating keynote remarks, thought provoking plenary sessions and release of an innovation paper by the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

The Lifetime Achievement Award has been presented in the past, but never on such a grand scale, and with such historic significance. With this year's milestone anniversary, MBDA National Director Ronald N. Langston elected to present the Lifetime Achievement Award in lieu of the traditional Minority Entrepreneur of the Year award. Presiding over the gala as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies are Tim and Daphne Reid, accomplished actors, directors and business entrepreneurs. Award winners, their guests and the hundreds expected to attend the Conference, will be treated to Latin American classical music by the Pan American Symphony Orchestra.

The award winners are:

Mr. Earl G. Graves
Earl G. Graves, Ltd.
New York, NY

Mr. Robert Brown
B&C Associates, Inc.
High Point, NC

Ms. Harriet Michel
National Minority Supplier
Development Council
New York, NY

Mr. Jesus Chavarria, PhD.
Hispanic Business, Inc.
Santa Barbara, CA

Mr. Abraham S. Venable
Institute for American Business
Edina, MN

Mr. Simon Lee
STG
Reston, VA

Mr. A. David Lester
Council of Energy Resource Tribes
Denver, CO

Ms. Anna Muller
NEDA Business Consultants, Inc.
Albuquerque, NM

Ms. Belinda Guadarrama
GC Micro Corporation
Petaluma, CA

Mr. C. C. Yin
Yin McDonald's
Sacramento, CA

Charles W. Blackwell
Ambassador, Chickasaw Nation
Washington, DC

The black-tie event will also feature a moment of silence to pay tribute to those that can not be at the Anniversary gathering, such as former MBDA Directors Alex Armendaris, Randolph T. Blackwell and Daniel Henson, among others. Additionally, MBDA will pay tribute the Honorable Parren J. Mitchell, former U.S. Congressman, champion for small and minority-owned businesses, and revered civic leader of national and local consumer groups, civil rights organizations, educational entities and business associations.

Those wishing to attend the 25th Anniversary MED Week Conference and Awards Gala should register for the conference in advance by calling 1-888-563-3933 or visiting www.medweek.gov.

Registration entitles attendees to participate in additional conference events including: the Billion Dollar Roundtable Breakfast, the State of Commerce Luncheon, a plenary session with renowned innovation expert and author Vijay Govindarajan, a panel presentation by minority entrepreneurs who have used innovation to their competitive advantage and a workshop on federal technology research programs presented by the Small Business Administration.

From its inception in 1983 as declared by Presidential proclamation, MED Week has provided a time to collectively recognize the achievements of minority business enterprise. The MED Week Conference is hosted by MBDA, the U.S. Small Business Administration and a host of public and private sector partners.

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About the Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce

Created in 1971 and headquartered in Washington, DC, the Minority Business Development Agency (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 expansion of minority business enterprises by offering management and technical assistance through a network of more than forty local business centers throughout the United States. More information and helpful resources to build minority businesses are available at www.mbda.gov.