

MED Week Awards Honor Minority Businesses



Lorinda Gray-Davis of Perini Building; Armando Contreras, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Ron Williams, president/CEO GCMSDC; and Victor Daniels of the governors office cut the ribbon opening the business showcase. GCMSDC annually sponsors the business showcase in collaboration with MEDWeek.

Story and photos By Floyd Alvin Galloway

There are over 4.1 million minority-owned firms in the United States. According to statistics minority-owned firms boost the economy contributed \$568 billion in total annual gross receipts and created 4.7 million jobs.

Energizing the American Economy with Minority Business Enterprises was the theme of the 2009 Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC) Minority Enterprise

Development Week awards breakfast was held August 18, at the Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix.

Sponsored by the Arizona's Minority Business Enterprise Center, Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).

The MBDA is the only federal agency that created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned

businesses. Keynote speaker for the event was George Dean, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Urban League. Dean highlighted the importance of the minority business to the country's economic recovery.

Nine local businesses were recognized for their enterprising achievements and contribution to the local economy.

Minority Construction firm of the Year recipient was Hardrock Concrete Placement Co., Minority Manufacturer of the Year was Mi Ranchito,

See Business Awards, Pg. 2



Special Recognition Minority Green Business of the Year

Presented to a minority company that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the education and promotion of Sustainability with Green Business practices.

Angela Brooks & Dr. George B. Brooks Jr., Southwest Green Magazine



Southwest Green — A Coaching and Consulting Company, is an arm of Ebony Cactus publishing. Southwest Green is a unique partnership of business, coaching, scientific, advocacy and consulting talent that helps executives, entrepreneurs, professionals and other high achievers respond to the needs of our increasingly sustainable world.

In 2001, HR Specialist Angela Brooks along with her husband Environmental Scientist Dr. George B. Brooks, Jr. founded Ebony Cactus publishing, leading to the launch of an online minority business magazine, NxT Horizon. However, by 2008 it became abundantly clear that the world was going green and sustainability would dramatically change the business and social landscape of the United States. It was also clear that a magazine and consulting group were necessary to demystify the subject so more Arizonans could reap the benefits of these changes, thus Southwest Green was born.

Southwest Green works within the basic philosophic position that the green movement has provided superior ways to use all of our resources not just the green ones. Because of this, more corporations, governments and people are putting green principles to work to set and achieve their goals. This paradigm shift in thinking opens up significant opportunities for economic, social and environmental recovery and innovation. Projects executed within this guiding principle have allowed SWG to rake up a significant number of achievements though not much more than a year old.

2008: • In partnership with the Arizona Minority Business Enterprise Center (AMBEC) and Arizona State University Downtown hosted the groundbreaking first Minority Green Business conference in the United States, AzBizGreen.

- In partnership with Southminster Social Service Agency, Southwest Gas Corporation, Arizona State University On Line, the AMBEC, The City of Phoenix Neighborhood, Environmental and Human Services Departments and KEYS Community Center, initiated the Green Revival low-income energy conservation program.

- In partnership with Arizona State University On-Line, Brotha-Love Productions and the Herberger Theater, sponsored Green Jazz at the Herberger as a fund raising effort for the Green Revival initiative.

2009: • In partnership with the AMBEC and Arizona State University Online hosted the second Minority Green Business conference in the United States.

Currently Southwest Green is working to increase the level of green certification within the minority business community. The next activity with the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services is outreach to the minority business community regarding contracting opportunities for the Low Income weatherization program. Southwest-Green is working with senior executives and entrepreneurs in a variety of coaching and consulting engagements and has an active public speaking schedule on such topics as sustainability, leadership development, understanding and mastering change.



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Minority Businesses Recognized At Biltmore Resort Event

Cont'd. from Page 1

Minority Service Firm of the Year was Torres Consulting and Law Group; Retail Firm of the Year was Emerging Markets Restaurants; Technology Firm of the Year was Engineering Science Analysis Manufacturing & Design; Supplier/Distributor of the Year was E.F. Valdez Construction Supply Company; Minority Advocate of the Year, Melissa Boyles-Metro and Luis Marquez of Wells Fargo Bank received the access to Capital award.

A new category signaled the arrival and importance of a new area of business development and environmental awareness, the Minority Green Business of the Year. The recipients of this inaugural award were Angela Brooks and Dr. George B. Brooks Jr. of Southwest Green Magazine.

The award is presented to a minority company that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in

education and promotion of sustainability with green business practices.

Dr. Brooks, a South Phoenix native and resident, and his wife Angela are ambassadors of the green movement in the minority community as well as the Arizona community at-large. "We are humbled by this award and are very appreciative of this honor," he noted.

In 2006, the Brooks' were recipients of the MED Week's Minority Media Cornerstone award for their on-line magazine *Ebony Cactus*.

Following the event the Grand Canyon Minority Supplier Development Council (GCMSDC) Annual Business Showcase kicked off in collaboration with the AZ Minority Business Enterprise Center MED Week Awards Breakfast.

The GCMSDC annual business showcase serves Native American, Hispanic, African American, and Asian business owners, corporate partners and



Armando Contreras of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; CPA Rosalind Moore, a past award recipient; with Phoenix Councilmen Michael Johnson and Michael Nowakowski.

government municipalities. One of the premier business showcase events of the year, over fifty vendors were on hand to display their products and services.

James Williams and Michael Barnes of eckoink answer questions regarding their business services at the GCMSDC business expo held in conjunction with the awards event.

ALIVN GALLOWAY/AZI PHOTOS

