



# NEWS ADVISORY

## PRESS OFFICE

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**News Releases:** [www.sba.gov/news](http://www.sba.gov/news)

### **SBA and MBDA Honor Minority Businesses and NBC “Apprentice” Star, Kwame Jackson during 22nd Anniversary Celebration of National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week 2004**

**Washington** - SBA and the Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency will take part in the 22nd National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference Sept. 7-10 in Washington, D.C. Under the theme, “*Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority*,” the MED Week conference will provide a forum for minority-owned firms and representatives from the private and public sectors to interact in a professional business environment and discuss the challenges impacting the nation’s minority entrepreneurs. There will be several minority business summits and workshops in which prominent government, corporate and minority business leaders will discuss issues and challenges that impact minority business growth, with special emphasis on strategies for minority businesses to gain access to business opportunities in the global economy.

**WHO:** **Hector Barreto**, Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration  
**Melanie Sabelhaus**, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration  
**Donald L. Evans**, Secretary of Commerce  
**Ronald Langston**, National Director of MBDA  
**Allegra McCullough**, Associate Deputy Administrator of Government Contracting and Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration  
**Kwame Jackson**, first runner up on NBC’s “Apprentice” reality show

*Hector V. Barreto, SBA Administrator will be the Co-Keynote Speaker at a luncheon from 12:00-2:00 on September 10, 2004. Press Availability to follow.*

*Kwame Jackson will receive a MED Week entrepreneur award for his achievements prior to and during the competition for the coveted executive position on Donald Trump’s “Apprentice” reality show at the MED Week closing award ceremony and gala.*

**WHEN:** September 7-September 10, 2004

**WHERE:** Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008  
1-800-The-Omni

## **MINORITY BUSINESS SUMMITS AND WORKSHOPS:**

- *SBA Workshops: Making it in the Competitive Market Place; and*
- *Making Government Certification Work for Small Business;*
- *Panel discussion on Technology Transfer: Commercializing Federal Laboratory Innovations*  
**Allegra McCullough**, Associate Deputy Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development will participate in this panel discussion.

**INFORMATIVE BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHEONS:** Senior White House Staff will be available to discuss key initiatives of the Bush Administration (Breakfasts 7:30-8:45 am each morning), and keynote speakers and experts on minority business growth and development will be featured at the luncheons (Luncheons 12:00-2:00 pm each afternoon). **Melanie Sabelhaus**, Deputy Administrator will introduce Ruben Barreles, a senior White House official on Sept. 10.

**BUSINESS EXPO:** Minority entrepreneurs will showcase their products and services and representatives of federal, state, and local governments and private companies will provide contractual information and opportunities for competing successfully in international markets.

**EMERGING BUSINESS LEADERS INSTITUTE:** College and university students who are aspiring entrepreneurs will learn about business ownership from established minority business owners and leaders. **Allegra McCullough**, Associate Deputy Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development will be a speaker during one of the two-day sessions.

**AWARDS/RECOGNITION CEREMONIES:** National award recipients, minority business advocates and exemplary corporations will be honored.

**Editor's Note:** Media representatives interested in obtaining an interview with SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto, Deputy Administrator Melanie Sabelhaus or Allegra McCullough, Associate Deputy Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development regarding MED Week 2004 prior to Sept. 7th should contact Ms. Clements at the number listed above.

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