



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: October 24, 2002

Contact: Cecelia Taylor (202) 401-3059

Release Number: 02-57

Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html

SBA AND STAPLES HOST A SPECIAL TOWN HALL FORUM “ENTREPRENEURSHIP: AMERICA’S ECONOMIC FOUNDATION”

WASHINGTON – A special town hall forum on *Entrepreneurship: America’s Economic Foundation*, an interactive dialogue about how small businesses can start and thrive in today’s economic environment, was held today by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Staples, Inc. The forum was hosted by SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto and Staples Chairman and Founder Tom Stemberg in Los Angeles.

“The SBA is committed to helping America’s 22 million small businesses, and providing them with the knowledge and support they need to continue to grow and flourish,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. **“We look forward to working with Staples to provide business tools and information to the nation’s entrepreneurs.”**

The forum provided an opportunity for California’s small business community to tap into the expertise of top business leaders on how to maximize the potential of their small businesses. It featured an information exchange on conducting business in a today’s economy, financing the growth of small businesses and creating an environment where small businesses can cultivate the resources they need to succeed.

“Staples was founded to be a resource to small business. We are excited to work with the SBA to provide easy access to the information and resources to help small businesses maximize their potential for success,” said Tom Stemberg, Chairman and Founder of Staples.

Other participants in today’s forum included SBA Chief Counsel for Advocacy Thomas M. Sullivan, SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera and two California business owners. The forum was moderated by Nelson Davis, founder and president of “MAKING IT! Minority Success Stories,” a Los Angeles produced TV show highlighting the successes of minority business. Davis is also a past winner of the SBA’s Los Angeles Media Advocate of the Year Award.

The event also featured the official launch of *SBA Solutions*, a new online newsletter providing America’s entrepreneurs with relevant and timely information to help them maximize their business success. *SBA Solutions* is part of a cosponsorship between the SBA and Staples, Inc., to provide an informative training tool to the small business community.

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Staples, Inc., is an \$11 billion retailer of office supplies, business services, furniture and technology to consumers and businesses from home-based businesses to Fortune 500 companies in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal. Headquartered outside Boston, Staples invented the office superstore concept and today is the largest operator of office superstores in the world. The company has approximately 55,000 associates serving customers through more than 1,400 office superstores, mail order catalogs, e-commerce and a contract business. More information about the company is available at <http://www.staples.com>.

For a free subscription to the *SBA Solutions* newsletter, go online to <http://web.sba.gov/list/>.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>.

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