



NEWS RELEASE

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MICHAEL DELL, CABINET MEMBERS JOIN SBA IN MARKING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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Corporate Sponsors' Support Makes Annual Recognition Possible

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao and Dell founder and CEO Michael Dell will join U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Hector V. Barreto in Washington, D.C., next week to celebrate National Small Business Week.

The theme for this year's celebration, "**Small Business: Where America Works,**" honors the entrepreneurs contributing to this nation's economy by helping to create jobs. Along with the featured speakers and other events, a National Small Business Person of the Year and two runners up will be announced.

"We are happy to be able to bring these speakers into a forum where they can meet with these small business owners from across the country during this special week," Administrator Barreto said. **"We think it's going to be a terrific event for the small business men and women who build the products, make the sales and create the jobs that fuel this economy."**

"Small business represents more than 99 percent of all businesses in America. Small business truly is where America works, and these successful small business owners deserve recognition for their achievements," he said.

More than 500 business owners from around the country have been invited to attend the SBA celebration. A highlight of the three-days of activities will be "A Conversation with Michael Dell," a town hall-style forum hosted by Administrator Barreto and featuring a free-wheeling exchange between Dell and the State Small Persons of the Year from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. That forum is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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Secretary O'Neill will deliver the keynote speech Tuesday at noon, at a special *Remembering September 11th* event honoring small businesses that suffered from the terrorist attacks in New York and Virginia. Firefighters and police officers from the two states will also be recognized.

Earlier in the day Tuesday, Secretary Chao will speak on labor issues at 9:40 a.m., following a *Small Business Briefing* on Pension Reform.

The briefing, which will begin at 9 a.m., is one of a series of policy and issue briefings exploring current trends helping to shape the small business economy, including technology, international trade and the regulatory environment.

Administrator Barreto will be the featured speaker Monday, May 6, at noon, at the National Small Business Week Awards Luncheon, hosted by SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie Sabelhaus.

Administrator Barreto also expressed gratitude for the assistance provided to the SBA by corporate patrons and association patrons who will be attending National Business Week. **"We are especially appreciative for the way these corporate patrons have offered their generous support,"** he said. **"Without it, there's no way we could have a celebration of this magnitude."**

The corporate patrons of National Small Business Week are: America Online, Cisco Systems, the Dell Corporation, FSB Magazine, Office Depot, The Hartford, Toyota Fleet, and WorldCom.

Association patrons of the event are: the International Franchise Association, the National Association for the Self-Employed, the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, the National Business Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, National Small Business United, the National Tooling and Machining Association, the Small Business Legislative Council, the Small Business Survival Committee, and Women Impacting Public Policy.

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*Additional Information on **National Small Business Week 2002** is available at <http://smallbusinesssuccess.sba.gov/>.*

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. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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