



MEDIA ADVISORY

PRESS OFFICE

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National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo Schedule of Events

President Bush Will Speak at Women's Breakfast Thursday Morning

3000 Small Business Owners Expected to Attend September 17-19th

Highlights to include Women's Breakfast, Hall of Fame, Business Matchmaking, Trade Show and Small Business Education Sessions on Small Business Financing, International Trade and eBusiness.

Three thousand small business owners from across the country are expected to attend the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Entrepreneurial Conference & Expo (NECE), in Washington, D.C., Sept. 17-19, 2003, at the Washington Hilton & Towers Hotel, the cornerstone event marking the SBA's 50th anniversary.

Key Events will be Webcast live at www.sba.gov/50. Video on Demand will be available 24 hours after each Webcast event. Continuing Webcasts of National Entrepreneurial Conference & Expo will begin Thursday. Special Webcast events include National Awards Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Thursday and Town Hall Meeting at 4 p.m. Thursday (All times Eastern Daylight Time).

Events to celebrate NECE will include:

- ***The National Small Business Person of the Year*** for 2003;
- ***Celebrating Women in Business Breakfast*** to honor a dynamic group of women entrepreneurs from across the country. These women represent the changing face of entrepreneurship, heading companies ranging from a construction firm to a shoe designer;
- ***Golden Anniversary Hall of Fame*** will inaugurate 23 notable U.S. companies that received SBA assistance;
- ***Trade Show & Expo*** featuring over 175 exhibitors, including small businesses, corporate entities, federal and state governments;
- ***Business Matchmaking*** that will pair purchasing agents with small businesses to make business deals;
- ***Business Education Sessions*** designed to provide small businesses with advice on Financing Opportunities for New and Growing Companies, International Trade, Expanding Opportunities, Managing Your Small Business, Procurement and e-Business; and
- ***Town Hall Meeting*** hosted by SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto with small business owners and corporate CEOs to discuss the top issues of today's entrepreneurs.

For Full Schedule, see page 2.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept.17

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Congressional Luncheon Honoring Small Business Advocates
Dirksen Senate Building

Featuring: **Congressman Don Manzullo; J.C. Watts, President J.C. Watts Cos.; Jack Faris, President & CEO, National Federation of Independent Business; Mike Brann of Toyota Fleet, and SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto**

Thursday, Sept. 18

9:00 am — 11:00 am

Celebrating Women in Business Breakfast

Featuring: **Carly Fiorina, President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard (HP), and SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus**

11:15 am — 12:30 pm

Business Sessions (3 Concurrent Sessions)

?Financing Opportunities for New and Growing Companies

?International Trade

?Expanding Opportunities

12:30 pm — 2:00 pm

National Awards Luncheon Honoring State and Regional Winners and
National Small Business Person of the Year

Featuring: **Andy Card, White House Chief of Staff, and Monica Luechtefeld, Executive Vice President, Office Depot**

2:30 pm — 3:45 pm

Business Sessions (3 Concurrent Sessions)

?Managing Your Small Business

?Procurement

?e-Business

2:00 pm — 2:30 pm

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Trade Show & Expo

Featuring: **Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN), Gov. Robert Ehrlich (R-MD), GSA Administrator Stephen Perry, and SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto**

2:00 pm — 6:00 pm

Business Matchmaking

4:00 pm — 5:00 pm

Town Hall Meeting - Small Business and Economic Growth: “Listening to America’s Job Creator”

Featuring: **Stephen Friedman, White House Director of the National Economic Council; Marc Lautenbach, IBM General Manager, Global Small and Medium Business; Greg Spragg, Executive Vice President Sam’s Club; Dan Goodgame, Managing Editor, Fortune Small Business, and SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto**

Friday, Sept. 19

8:30 am — 10:00 am Phoenix Awards Breakfast Honoring Businesses Recovering From Disasters
*Featuring: Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson, Department of Homeland Security;
John Bridgeland, Executive Director, USA Freedom Corps, and Mark P. Letner,
Vice President of Business Services, Johnson & Johnson*

10:00 am — 11:30 am Panel Discussions - "Empowering America's Entrepreneurs"
(6 Concurrent Sessions)

?Securing America's Economic Growth And Job Creation
?Even Entrepreneurs Get Sick
?Be Aware And Prepare: Disaster Readiness
?Marketing
?Business for Veterans, By Veterans
?Leadership

--more--

10:30 am — 12:00 pm Business Matchmaking

12:00 pm — 1:30 pm National Awards Luncheon Honoring Regional Small Business Prime and Sub Contractor
Award Winners
*Featuring: Jim Blasingame, Host of the Small Business Advocate, SBA
Administrator Hector V. Barreto and SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R.
Sabelhaus*

2:00 pm — 5:30 pm Business Matchmaking

8:00 pm — 10:00 pm Closing Awards Gala Honoring National Small Business Winners:
*Featuring: Nigel Burton, Microsoft General Manager, U.S. Marketing; Stuart
Mathis, President, UPS Store/Mail Boxes, Etc., Inc.; SBA Administrator Hector V.
Barreto, and SBA Deputy Administrator Melanie R. Sabelhaus*

Golden Anniversary Hall of Fame Unveiling

Prior to NECE events:

To schedule an interview with a U.S. Small Business Administration spokesperson regarding NECE, or to schedule an interview with an award winner, contact Sue Hensley at (202) 205-6444. A complete list of events and winners may be viewed at the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/50.

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