



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: March 28, 2008
Release Number: 08-27

Contact: Cecelia Taylor (202) 401-3059
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

SBA Unveils New ‘National Small Business Week’ Web Site

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration this week launched a new Web site, www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com, for National Small Business Week 2008, featuring information about the agency’s premier annual event. The celebration of National Small Business Week is April 21-25, with events in Washington, D.C., April 21-23 and in New York City April 24-25.

Among the featured speakers confirmed are Secretary Mike Leavitt, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Ambassador Susan C. Schwab, United States Trade Representative; Newt Gingrich, former House Speaker; David Latimore of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City; John Bryant of Operation HOPE, and other prominent business leaders, CEOs and politicians.

Visitors to the site will find it richer, deeper, and easier to navigate, with a look and feel that conveys the spirit of excitement surrounding this year’s Small Business Week events.

Up-to-the-minute highlights, multimedia content and information will be updated to the Web site during Small Business Week events in real-time. An added interactive feature will allow visitors to www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com to upload photos of the events directly to the site.

Created with the user in mind, one of the newest features of the new Web site is an interactive blog that will allow sponsors, award winners, and the public to post content about Small Business Week events.

The new Web site provides detailed information about the National Small Business Week schedule, including day-to-day-events, featured sessions, events locations, award winners’ biographies and detailed sponsor information. In addition, information for Small Business Week award winners will be accessible on member-only sections of the Web site.

“National Small Business Week.com is a leap forward for the SBA, and represents a new platform for how the agency can engage in a dialogue with small businesses online,” said Anoop Prakash, SBA Associate Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development.

A full updated schedule of events appears below, and online at <http://www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com/Schedule/>.

-- more --

After Small Business Week 2008 events have ended, the Web site will continue to serve as a nucleus for dialogue and communication, with archived events from 2008 accessible at the click of a mouse button. Small business community members can receive updates on future SBA events, including a post-event discussion of National Small Business Week 2008 activities.

The small business community is invited to join the SBA for a week of valuable executive panel forums that will feature an exceptional lineup of notable speakers, expert panelists, and business industry leaders discussing best business practices and the latest developments in the business world. The small business community nationwide can also take part in the forums, and view other Small Business Week events that will be webcast live.

Online registration for National Small Business Week is now open. To hold your place, visit online to the new site at www.NationalSmallBusinessWeek.com. Media outlets are encouraged to cover National Small Business Week events, and can also register online.

Media Contacts:

Dennis Byrne
dennis.byrne@sba.gov
(202) 205-6567

Cecelia Taylor
cecelia.taylor@sba.gov
(202) 401-3059

- **EXECUTIVE PANEL OPEN FORUMS**

This series of executive discussions will feature some of the brightest minds in the industry and engage forum attendees on key issues of critical importance

Healthcare - Cost and Coverage: Healthcare Chicken and Egg

Trade - Going Global: Accessing New Markets

Energy - Meeting the Energy Challenge: Impacts & Opportunities for Small Business

Procurement - Secrets of Building Alliance Partnerships with Prime Contractors

Financial - Investing in the Future: Financing Inner City Businesses

- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS CEREMONIES**

- **CONTINUOUS WEB STREAMING OF EVENTS**

(Check the Web site for Details on Live Streaming Video Events)

The U.S. Small Business Administration's participation in this cosponsored activity does not constitute an express or implied endorsement of any cosponsor's, donor's, grantee's, contractor's or participant's opinions, products, or services. All SBA programs and cosponsored programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance, by contacting sbw@sba.gov. Cosponsorship Authorization #SBW2008

Small Business Week 2008 cosponsors include: Sam's Club, Administaff, Raytheon, IBM, Chevron, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Lockheed Martin, Lowe's, MyBizHomepage, Dun & Bradstreet, Federal Allies Institute, Consumer Energy Alliance, National Federation of Independent Business, and SCORE

(The National Small Business Week 2008 Schedule of Events is attached.)

Small Business Week 2008 Schedule of Events

(Note to Press: Seating is limited at all events and the events schedule is subject to change.)

Monday, April 21

- 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Opening Reception and Presentation of the Entrepreneurial Development Awards**
U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Reception Rooms

Tuesday, April 22

- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Healthcare Forum: “Cost and Coverage: Healthcare Chicken and Egg”**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: NFIB- National Federation of Independent Business
Confirmed: Secretary Mike Leavitt, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Newt Gingrich, American Solutions
- 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **National Awards Luncheon Honoring State Small Business Winners**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom
This event celebrates entrepreneurship in America by honoring outstanding small business men and women from all 50 states and territories. From that group, a national small business person of the year is selected.
Sponsored by: Sam’s Club
- 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm **Trade Forum: "Going Global: Accessing New Markets"**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: IBM & Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Confirmed: Susan C. Schwab, United States Trade Representative
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Congressional Reception**
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SD-G50

Wednesday, April 23

- 7:00 am – 5:00 pm **Registration Open**
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Pre-Function Area
- 8:00 am – 10:00 am **Phoenix Awards Breakfast**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom
The Phoenix Awards are given to those individuals whose efforts and contributions have enabled their businesses or communities to recover successfully from a disaster.
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Energy Forum: "Meeting the Energy Challenge: Impacts & Opportunities for Small Business"**
Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom
Sponsored by: CEA- Consumer Energy Alliance
Invited: John Hofmeister, Shell Corp.
- 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm **National Awards Luncheon Honoring Procurement Award Winners**
Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by: Raytheon

This event honors achievement in several areas of procurement.

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Procurement Forum: “Secrets of Building Alliance Partnerships with Prime Contractors”

Mandarin Oriental, Oriental Ballroom

Invited: Michael Chertoff, Department of Homeland Security

7:30 pm – 11:00 pm

Champion Award Winners Gala

Mandarin Oriental, Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by: Administaff

This event serves as the culminating award event to honor all the award winners of the week.

Thursday, April 24

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

OSDBU Procurement Matchmaking Event

Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

For information, please visit www.fbcinc.com/osdbu

SBA Administrator Steven C. Preston will be a guest speaker at this event.

3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Reception Celebrating Women Entrepreneurs

Hosted by the National Women’s Business Council

NASDAQ MarketSite, New York City

A reception to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the legislation establishing the Women’s Business Centers.

Friday, April 25

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Financial Forum: “Investing in the Future: Financing Inner City Businesses” and Lender Awards Luncheon

The Westin New York at Times Square, New York City

Majestic Ballroom, 5th Floor

Sponsored by: ICIC- Initiative for Competitive Inner City

This event is designed to serve as dialogue between the SBA and those interested in community investment, followed by a luncheon to celebrate SBA’s top Small Business Lenders.

Confirmed: John Bryant, Operation Hope

David Latimore, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City

#