



WOMEN'S  
BUSINESS  
COUNCIL  
—  
SOUTHWEST

## **News Release** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Donna Hegdahl  
[donna@transsynergy.com](mailto:donna@transsynergy.com)  
972-717-3500

### Southwest Women's Business Enterprises Generate More Than \$3 Billion in 2007

*Accomplishments to be recognized at 13th annual Women's Business Council Gala*

**DALLAS – January 21, 2008** – Certified women-owned businesses in north Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico generated more than \$3 billion in 2007 with average revenue per business of \$6.26 million, a 23 percent increase over 2006, according to the Women's Business Council Southwest (WBCS). The organization will honor Women Business Enterprises and supporting companies for their success at the 11th annual Award Gala, January 28 at the Morton Meyerson Symphony Center.

The awards gala highlights the contributions of women-owned businesses to the region's economy and pays tribute to exemplary members. It also recognizes the corporations and government agencies that provide Women Business Enterprises with growth opportunities in today's competitive marketplace.

In 2007, WBCS certified 735 Women Business Enterprises, 15 percent more than 2006. WBCS also grew its ethnic minority Women Business Enterprise membership by 21 percent. Ethnic minority women-owned businesses now comprise one out of every seven WBCS members. In terms of business growth, 25,000 business deals were reported by the membership in 2007, which constitutes a 51 percent increase from the previous year.

“The annual gala enables us to recognize Women Business Enterprises that have achieved success and positively contributed to their industries and the communities in which they serve, along with corporations that support Women Business Enterprises,” said Debbie Hurst, president of WBCS. “The strength of our membership and the business they generated made it extremely difficult to select only a few Stars.

“But this year's Stars do stand out for a variety of reasons. Beyond their success, they are distinguished by their commitment to their businesses, their personal and business ethics, and the value they add to their communities.”

- more -

The awards gala begins with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by a networking dinner. The event is open to members and non-members and costs \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. To learn more about the Gala and to register, visit [www.wbcsouthwest.org](http://www.wbcsouthwest.org).

WBCS, a regional affiliate of Women Business Enterprise National Council, supports the growth of women-owned businesses by providing certification, training, mentoring, and networking opportunities for its members, connecting buyers and suppliers to drive business growth.

The membership of the WBCS is composed of both corporate members seeking to do business with women-owned businesses and the Women Business Enterprises themselves. Some notable corporate members include Alcatel-Lucent, Brinker International, Dell Inc., EDS, IBM Corporation, J.C. Penney Company, Inc., Frito-Lay, Inc., American Airlines, Texas Instruments, TXU, and Verizon.

### **About WBCS**

Headquartered in Arlington, Texas, WBCS is dedicated to increasing mutually beneficial procurement opportunities between certified woman-owned businesses, corporations, businesses, government entities, institutions and other organizations. With more than 730 WBE members and 80 corporate sustaining members, WBCS is in its 13<sup>th</sup> year of providing national certification to women-owned businesses. To find out more about the WBCS please visit [www.wbcsouthwest.org](http://www.wbcsouthwest.org) . WBCS is a regional affiliate of Women Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) covering Oklahoma, north Texas, Arkansas and New Mexico. Founded in 1997, WBENC has become a powerhouse organization for women entrepreneurs across the country.

###