



WOMEN'S
BUSINESS
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News Release

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Women's Business Council Southwest Awards Members for 2007 Accomplishments

Winners announced at 12th annual Women's Business Council Gala

DALLAS – January 29, 2008 – The Women's Business Council Southwest (WBCS) gathered Monday night at the Morton Meyerson Symphony Center for its 12th annual Gala to honor the 2007 accomplishments of exemplary Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) and the corporations that support them.

This year's award winners included:

- **WBE of the Year** – CRC Group, Patricia Rodriguez-Christian, president
- **WBE Rising Star** – MEB Construction, Eve Fields, president
- **WBE Advocate of the Year** – Valerie Freeman, CEO, Imprimis Group
- **Corporation of the Year** – Texas Instruments
- **Corporate Rising Star** – Dell, Inc.
- **Corporate Advocate of the Year** – Connie Magers, J. C. Penney
- **WBE Volunteer of the Year** – Dianne Fletcher, CEO, Purdy-McGuire
- **Corporate Volunteer of the Year** – Debbie Barnard, ExxonMobil
- **Regional Volunteer of the Year** – Jan Harper, owner, Employment Research Services

These businesses, along with our WBCS overall membership, contributed to the economy by generating more than \$3 billion in 2007. That represents an average revenue per business of \$6.26 million, a 23 percent increase over 2006, according to the WBCS.

“The annual Gala honors Women Business Enterprises that have achieved success and positively contributed to their industries and their communities, along with corporations that understand the value of supporting these Women Business Enterprises,” said Debbie Hurst, president of WBCS. “Everyone benefits from this cooperation. The Women Business Enterprises are aided on their pathway to success, and the supporting corporations as well as the communities at large are enhanced by the value these enterprises add.”

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In 2007, WBCS certified 735 Women Business Enterprises, 15 percent more than 2006. WBCS also grew its ethnic minority WBE 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, a 51 percent increase from the previous year.

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, American Airlines, Brinker International, Dell Inc., EDS, IBM Corporation, J.C. Penney Company, Inc., Frito-Lay, Inc., 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 13th year of providing national certification to women-owned businesses. To find out more about the WBCS please visit www.wbcswest.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.

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Editor's Note: A photo of the WBCS Gala winners is available. To request a digital photo, please contact Betty Goetz at 972-717-3500 x 221 or email bgoetz@transsynergy.com .

Note to Editor:

An Albuquerque New Mexico business owner, Jan Harper, from Employment Research Services (erscheck.com) was awarded the Regional Volunteer of the Year, by the Women's Business Council Southwest. We can arrange an interview with Jan should you like to cover this story. We also have a high resolution digital image of Jan accepting her award at the 12th Annual Women's Business Council Southwest Awards Gala, which was held, January 28 in Dallas.

Thanks,

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