

## **For Immediate Release**

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WOMEN'S  
BUSINESS  
COUNCIL  
—  
SOUTHWEST

## **WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL – SOUTHWEST AWARDS MEMBERS FOR 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARADE OF STARS GALA**

**DALLAS – January 19, 2012** – The Women's Business Council - Southwest (WBCS) gathered Thursday night at the new Omni Hotel in downtown Dallas for its 16th annual Gala to honor the 2011 accomplishments of exemplary Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs) and the corporations that support them.

This year's award winners included:

- **Corporation of the Year** – Energy Future Holdings
- **Corporate Advocate of the Year** – David Robinson, Brinker International
- **Corporate Rising Star** – Basden & Ivie, PC
- **WBE of the Year (<\$5M)** – Marfield Corporate Stationery, Lee Ann Packard, CEO
- **WBE of the Year (>\$5M)** – Pinnacle Technical Resources, Nina Vaca, chairman and CEO
- **WBE Advocate of the Year** – Eve Clark, MEB Construction, president
- **WBE Rising Star** – Big Barn BBQ, Patti Hanson, managing partner
- **Buyer of the Year** – Jack Daniell, Oncor
- **Corporate Volunteer of the Year** – Marilyn Stewart, Alcatel-Lucent
- **Regional Volunteer of the Year** – Sharon Garman, The RoArk Group
- **WBE Volunteer of the Year** – Kathy White, Business Interiors

These businesses, along with the WBCS overall membership, contributed to the economy by generating more than \$5 billion in 2011. That represents average revenue per business of \$5.5 million, according to the WBCS.

“The annual Gala honors WBEs that have achieved success and positively contributed to their industries and their communities, along with corporations that understand the value of supporting these WBEs,” said Debbie Hurst, president of WBCS. “Everyone benefits from this cooperation. The WBEs 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.”

In 2011, WBCS certified 1,014 WBEs. In terms of business growth, 47 percent of Sustaining Members reported \$489 million in spend with WBE members. This is a 44 percent increase over 2010.

WBCS 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.

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The membership of the WBCS is composed of both corporate members seeking to do business with women-owned businesses and the WBEs themselves. Some notable corporate members include Alcatel-Lucent, American Airlines, BNSF Railway, Brinker International, Dell Inc., Energy Future Holdings, ExxonMobil, Frito-Lay, IBM Corporation, J.C. Penney Company, Inc., Oncor, Texas Instruments 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 1,000 WBE members and close to 90 corporate sustaining members, WBCS is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of providing national certification to women-owned businesses. To find out more about the WBCS please visit [www.wbcswest.org](http://www.wbcswest.org) . WBCS administers the national certification on behalf of the Women Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) for the following states Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

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