

For Immediate Release

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**WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL – SOUTHWEST AWARDS MEMBERS FOR 2009
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE 14TH ANNUAL PARADE OF STARS GALA**

DALLAS – January 20, 2010 – The Women's Business Council - Southwest (WBCS) gathered Tuesday night at the Belo Mansion for its 14th annual Gala to honor the 2009 accomplishments of exemplary Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) and the corporations that support them.

This year's award winners included:

- **Corporation of the Year** – Frito-Lay
- **Corporate Advocate of the Year** – Grace Hastings, Oncor
- **Corporate Rising Star** – Oncor
- **WBE of the Year (>\$5M)** – Warrior Group, Gail Warrior-Lawrence, president
- **WBE of the Year (<\$5M)** – Telecopy, Inc., Marsha Davidson, president
- **WBE Advocate of the Year** – Sharon Evans, president, CFj Manufacturing
- **WBE Rising Star** – One Safe Place Media Corporation, Pam Curry, executive vice president
- **Buyer of the Year** – Jerome Pilgrim, DISD
- **Corporate Volunteer of the Year** – David Robinson, Brinker International
- **Regional Volunteer of the Year** – Patti Winstanley, Aztec Promotional Group
- **WBE Volunteer of the Year** – Susan Parker, Texas Moving

These businesses, along with the WBCS overall membership, contributed to the economy by generating more than \$5 billion in 2009. That represents average revenue per business of \$8.45 million, 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.”

In 2009, WBCS certified 775 Women Business Enterprises. In terms of business growth, 38 percent of Sustaining Members reported \$486 million in spend with 211 WBE members. This is a \$104 million (27 percent) increase in reported business over 2008.

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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WBCS 2010 Gala Winners/page 2

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 775 WBE members and 80 corporate sustaining members, WBCS is in its 15th year of providing national certification to women-owned businesses. To find out more about the WBCS please visit 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.
