



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia Alston, Director-Communications, NAWBO Chicago
Phone: 847-341-6846 Email: sylvia@write2win.com

NAWBO Chicago Invites Entrepreneurs to Pursue Procurement Opportunities

Getting certified as a Women-Owned Business, Minority-Owned Business and/or Small Business Enterprise can result in greater business development opportunities to eligible small businesses. That's why the Chicago chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, in partnership with the Small Business Advocacy Council, Women's Business Development Center and Federation of Women Contractors, invites entrepreneurs to register for "Work Your Diversity. Procurement is Smart Business," on February 21, 2012, in downtown Chicago.

"We see this as an opportunity to educate entrepreneurs about the business development opportunities and markets they may not be aware of," said Julie Savitt, Director-Diversity, NAWBO Chicago. "The panelists – all of whom represent potential buyers -- will discuss the products and services their organizations or entities buy."

The panelists will be public and private sector diversity or procurement officials, such as:

- **Frieda Curry**, Director of the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Women's Business Development Center
- **Carlos Gutierrez**, Outreach Manager, Illinois Department of Central Management Services - Business Enterprise Program
- **E. LaVerne Hall**, Director of Cook County Contract Compliance
- **Victoria Wright, MS Ed.**, Training & Development Analyst, City of Chicago Office of Compliance
- **Brian Montgomery**, Manager-Supplier Diversity, Procurement Sourcing, NICOR Gas
- **Rosalyn Putman**, Lead Business Development Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration
- **Nadia Quarles**, Assistant Vice President-Diversity, University of Chicago

In addition to learning how to leverage procurement as a growth strategy, business owners also will have the opportunity to network with procurement officials and diverse business owners. Procurement officials from the University of Chicago and Illinois Tollway Authority have been invited to attend, as well as members of Illinois' Hispanic, Black, Asian American and Gay & Lesbian chambers of commerce.

"Work Your Diversity. Procurement is Smart Business." will be held on February 21, 2012, from 8am to 10:30am, at the offices of the Small Business Advocacy Council, 20 S. Clark St., 14th floor, Chicago. To register, visit <http://www.nawbochicago.org>.

About NAWBO Chicago

For more than 30 years, NAWBO Chicago, a 501(c)6 professional organization, has led the way in providing and promoting growth and development opportunities for women-owned business enterprises. Through excellence in vision, leadership, and continuous outreach to the diverse community of women entrepreneurs, NAWBO Chicago strengthens the wealth-creating capacity of our members and promotes economic development; creates innovative and effective changes in the business culture; builds strategic alliances, coalitions, and affiliations; and transforms public policy and influences opinion makers. To learn more about NAWBO Chicago, visit <http://www.nawbochicago.org>.

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