

NEWS RELEASE

FEBRUARY, 2006

MAUREEN BEAL NAMED BY WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE NATIONAL COUNCIL AS A WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS STAR

Washington, DC (November 9, 2005) – The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the nation's leading advocate of women-owned businesses as suppliers to America's corporations, has announced its 2006 Women-Owned Business Stars. The 14 women



business owners, selected by WBENC's women's business organization partners (WBOPs), will be honored during WBENC's ninth annual **Salute to Women's**



Business Enterprises: The Enterprising Economy. The Salute is WBENC's annual black-tie fundraiser and will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2006 in Washington, DC., at the National Building Museum.

The women's business enterprises selected as one of their 2006 Women-Owned Business Stars:

Maureen Beal, CEO, National Van Lines, Inc., www.nationalvanlines.com,

representing the Women's Business Development Center/Chicago

Sponsors of the 2006 Salute as of November 4, 2005 include Raytheon Company, Microsoft Corporation, UPS, United Airlines, CFJ Manufacturing, Bank of America, The Home Depot, Time Warner Inc., Matrix Information Consulting, Inc., Pfizer, Inc., Ernst and Young, IBM and J. C. Penney.

Each year WBENC and its women's business organizational partners (WBOPs) select 14 Women-Owned Business Stars, one representing each WBOP, for recognition at the annual Salute traditionally held during Women's History Month. The "Business Stars" are selected based on their leadership in their local business community, their ability to inspire other women business owners and their consistency in directing a successful WBENC-certified business.

"Women business owners make outstanding contributions to the US economy each and every day," said Susan Bari, President of WBENC. "Our Salute recognizes a handful of the WBEs who are instrumental to America's economic recovery, job creation and future. WBENC is proud to spotlight these WBEs who demonstrate their commitment to the US economy by operating successful businesses while serving as leaders in their communities."

WBENC will also feature the 14 Women-Owned Business Stars on its web site, and in WBENC news releases throughout 2006. The dinner and awards program will pay tribute to the WBEs in a video presentation and in the Salute commemorative program book.

For sponsorship information, please contact WBENC at 202-872-5515, extension 17 or email **About Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC):**

- Founded in 1997, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is the nation's leading third-party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women, and the leading advocate of women's business enterprises (WBEs) as suppliers to corporate America.
- The average WBENC certified company has revenues of \$7.5M, 48 employees and 12 years of experience.
- More than 60 WBE firms have revenues in excess of \$100M, and six certified WBE companies have revenues in excess of \$1 billion.
- Nearly 200 US corporations are active members of WBENC and representatives of 36 corporations sit on the WBENC Board of Directors, along with nine representatives of its partner organizations and nine Women's Business Enterprises.
- WBENC certification is accepted by nearly 700 corporations, representing America's most prestigious brands, as well as government entities at the state, local and Federal levels.
- WBENC also has developed several highly regarded initiatives for **recognizing excellence** in corporate supplier diversity targeting WBEs (America's Top Corporations for Women's Business Enterprises, The WBENC Applause Awards) and women's business enterprises (WBENC's Woman-Owned Business Stars).
- WEBuy@wbenc.org is an online marketplace where corporations and government agencies, as well as WBEs, post RFPs, sources sought, and RFIs.

For more information, contact info@wbenc.org or visit our web site at www.wbenc.org.

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