



News Release

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For Release on:
December 11, 2007

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Sandy Bartow Named to National Women's Business Council *Federal Appointment for Jacksonville, FL-based Businesswoman and Community Leader*

Washington, DC – Sandy Bartow, Executive Director of the Jacksonville Women's Business Center (JWBC) in Jacksonville, FL, has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council. The JWBC, a program of the Jacksonville Chamber Foundation, delivers mentoring, training, networking and consulting programs and services to over 1,000 clients. As part of her role with JWBC, Sandy formerly served two terms as a National Board Member of the Association of Women's Business Centers and was also named head of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Center in June 2007.

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council that serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. The Council's mission is to promote bold initiatives, policies and programs designed to support women's business enterprises at all stages of development in the public and private sector marketplaces -- from start-up to success to significance. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations.

“On behalf of the entire National Women's Business Council, I am delighted to welcome Sandy Bartow as our newest member,” said Tami Longaberger, Chair of the National Women's Business Council and Chair, CEO and President of The Longaberger Company. “As a previous owner of several successful businesses, local leader, and advocate for women's business community, Sandy brings a wealth of valuable experience to the Council. I'm confident the Council will be enriched by her participation and I look forward to working with her to advance the priorities of women business owners.”

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Prior to being named Executive Director of the JWBC, Bartow was the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Kansas Women's Business Center from 2000 to 2004. Sandy also served as president of Kansas City-based The Licata Group, where she delivered strategic business services to small businesses. Sandy has also fueled her entrepreneurial spirit with successful ventures in retail franchising, advertising, and publishing that include hands-on negotiation of a profitable sale of a company.

Sandy serves on the board of Women Business Owners of North Florida, the City of Jacksonville's Small and Emerging Business Advisory Board, and the Center for Women's Business Research National Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network. In 2006, Sandy was appointed to the Jacksonville Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. Sandy received the U.S. Small Business Administration's district, region VII, and national Women in Business Advocate Award for the Year 2002, was named Women's Business Advocate of the Year for the State of Kansas by the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, Office of Minority and Women Business Development in 2002, and was honored by Wayne State University as national Business Instructor of the Year in 2001. She has earned region-wide honors as one of the *Jacksonville Business Journal's* 2006 Women of Influence, and most recently received the 2007 Individual Mentor Award at the *Jacksonville Business Journal's* Mosaic Award Luncheon. Sandy is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Entrepreneurship at the University of Florida.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve on the National Women's Business Council," said Bartow. "As a passionate advocate for women business owners and a former entrepreneur, I hope to work with my fellow members of the Council to advance the cause of women's business ownership. Based on my experience running two women's business centers and serving on the Board of the Association of Women's Business Centers, I am eager to further promote the Council's support of entrepreneurial education around the country."

As the nation's advocate for the more than 10.6 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women's Business Council works to promote increased access to affordable health care, access to capital, access to federal contracts and international markets, and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed. Women-owned businesses currently represent nearly half (48%) of all U.S. firms, employing 19.1 million people and generating nearly \$2.5 trillion in sales.

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