



News Release

409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210 ★ Washington, DC 20024 ★ 202-205-3850 (p) ★ 202-205-6825 (f) ★ www.nwbc.gov

For Release on:
July 23, 2007

Contact: Allison Gilmore
202-205-6827
allison.gilmore@nwbc.gov

National Women's Business Council Sponsors International Best Paper Award *Study Examines Influence of Gender on Exporting*

Washington, DC – The National Women's Business Council presented the Best Paper Award for Women's Entrepreneurship at the International Council for Small Business World Conference in Turku, Finland last month. The award was presented to Barbara Orser, Martine Spence, and Allan Riding of the University of Ottawa in Canada, as well as Christine A. Carrington of the Small Business Policy Branch of Industry Canada, for their paper, "Export Propensity and Performance: Understanding the Influence of Gender."

The winning paper draws on theories of how small and medium sized enterprises internationalize to develop a better understanding of predisposition to exporting and the impact of gender of ownership. The authors found that controlling for factors such as sector and firm differences, women majority-owned firms were significantly less likely to export. The paper provides the first large-scale evidence to support anecdotal references to gender-related barriers to export, suggesting the need to focus on both owner and firm development, as well as explicit market interventions, to address gender-based impediments to international trade.

"The National Women's Business Council is proud to present the 2007 Best Paper Award to the authors of this outstanding paper," said NWBC Executive Director Margaret Barton. "We believe it is important to support creative and unique research in topics related to women's business ownership worldwide in support of the Council's mission of supporting fact-based policymaking. Expanding women business owners' access to overseas markets promotes growth in their businesses and the U.S. economy."

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council that serves as an independent source of advice to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. The Council's mission includes conducting and supporting research on issues

(continued)

of importance to women business owners and their organizations in order 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. The Best Paper Award for Women's Entrepreneurship was created by NWBC to encourage such research.

To read the winning paper, visit <http://www.nwbc.gov/ResearchPublications/papersOped.html>. For more information on the NWBC's International Best Paper Award for Women's Entrepreneurship, contact NWBC Executive Director Margaret Barton at margaret.barton@sba.gov.

###

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve 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. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, contact: National Women's Business Council, 409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825, e-mail: info@nwbc.gov; Web site: www.nwbc.gov.