



News Release

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Summit Sets Course for Growth in Women's Business Ownership

Policy and thought leaders convene, set economic agenda for women's entrepreneurship

Washington, DC –The National Women's Business Council (NWBC) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today hosted a summit of policymakers, economists, and women's business community leaders in Washington, DC. The 2009 Women's Business Summit, *The Economy Through a Different Lens*, brought together the top minds in entrepreneurship to develop an economic agenda for the growth of women's business ownership.

NWBC Chair Carole Jean Jordan, Owner and Founder of Jordan Sprinkler Systems, welcomed the summit participants, encouraging open dialogue and urging the development of dynamic solutions. "Women business owners make tremendous contributions to our nation's economy," said NWBC Chair Carole Jean Jordan, Owner and Founder of Jordan Sprinkler Systems. "Our hope is that today's summit will help the women's entrepreneurship community overcome current economic challenges and set the stage for growth."

Opening the event, Jane Wesman, a business owner from New York, described how thoughtful leadership is helping her company navigate the recession. The event continued with panels of economic and policy experts, who discussed the role of women-owned small businesses in the economy and how legislative efforts can support their contributions to economic recovery. Tina Tchen, White House Director of Public Liaison, provided luncheon remarks, sharing how the Obama administration will support small business owners.

In addition to members of the NWBC, leaders of major national women's business organizations, such as the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO), presented their groups' goals for the future. Staff from the House and Senate Small Business Committees, the SBA, and the SBA Office of Advocacy also participated in the event.

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There are more than 10 million women-owned businesses in the United States, representing nearly 40% of all businesses. These firms employ more than 12.8 million workers, or about one in 11 private sector workers, and contribute nearly \$1.9 trillion in annual revenues to our nation's economy. For the past two decades, majority women-owned firms have continued to grow at around two times the rate of all firms.

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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. As the nation's advocate for the more than 10.4 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. The Council conducts research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations and connects the women's business community to policy makers in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.