



# News Release

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

**For Release On:**  
April 3, 2003

**Contact:** Stephanie Peacock,  
(202) 205-6827  
[stephanie.peacock@sba.gov](mailto:stephanie.peacock@sba.gov)

## Claudia Laird Named to National Women's Business Council

**Washington, DC** – Claudia T. Laird, Vice President at Ability Center and an owner of LIDCO, Inc., has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council.

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. The Council is committed to:

- *Conducting* research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations;
- *Communicating* these findings widely;
- *Connecting* the women's business community to public policy makers; and
- Providing programs and platforms for *change* in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.

"I am delighted to welcome Claudia Laird to the National Women's Business Council," said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. "As a skilled leader of multi-unit, international manufacturing operations, Claudia's vast experience and knowledge will provide an important perspective to the Council. I am enthusiastic and grateful that our work will be strengthened by her contributions."

Laird is Vice President at Ability Center, the West Coast's largest mobility company with its "One Stop Shop" concept offering a full line of accessible vans, wheelchairs, adaptive driving equipment and home medical supplies. Laird is also a board member of various civic and non-profit organizations, a Past President of the National Association of Women Business Owners in California, and the recipient of NAWBO San Diego's BRAVO Award

(continued)

in recognition of her service to the business community.

Previously, Laird served as the Chief Operating Officer of LIDCO, Inc., a subsurface drainage pipe manufacturing and construction company with over 100 employees in the U.S. and Mexico.

"I am enthusiastic for the opportunity to serve on this distinguished Council," said Laird. "My goal as a Council member is to share my entrepreneurial experience in order to enhance the opportunities for women business owners in the U.S."

As the nation's advocate for the more than 9 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the Council supports 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 business owners currently represent almost 38% of all U.S. firms with a growth rate twice that of all businesses. They employ one out of every four company workers and contribute \$3.6 trillion in annual revenues.

###

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20024; phone: 202-205-3850; fax: 202-205-6825, e-mail: [nwbc@sba.gov](mailto:nwbc@sba.gov).