

Minority Business Week

Minority Enterprise Development Week 1998

President Clinton has designated the week of September 20 through September 23, 1998 as "Minority Enterprise Development Week" to honor our Nation's minority-owned businesses. Locally, the week of October 4 through October 10 has been selected. To commemorate the importance of this week, a committee has been formed, composed of government and private sector individuals to plan for events in recognition of the significance and the contributions of Oregon's minority-owned business community.

The activities planned for this year include an Annual Awards Luncheon to be held at the Oregon Convention Center on October 8th. A trade fair will also be held at the Convention Center on the same day. At the Awards Luncheon, we plan to honor several of our state's successful minority entrepreneurs. These individuals will be recognized for their successful business development and the contributions that these individuals have made to their communities.

The nominated firms recognized at the Annual Awards luncheon are at least 51% owned and operated by a socially disadvantaged individual(s) that is a member of one of the following ethnic groups: African American,

Hispanic American, Native American, Asian Pacific American or Sub-Continent Asian American. In addition, the firms are in a satisfactory financial condition and have a good record of service in the community or charitable affairs.

The following entrepreneurs will receive a MED Award at the luncheon:

- * Mr. Lourdes M. Camacho, President of The Camacho Group, Inc.
- * Ms. Annie Choi, President of Ever Clean Maintenance
- * Mr. Luis Coria, President of Coria Contracting
- * Ms. Joan Brown-Kline, President of Brown-Kline & Company
- * Mr. James Stotts, President of Puget Plastics Corporation

Other special recognition awards will be granted during the ceremony.

The selected keynote speaker at the Annual Awards luncheon will be State Representative Margaret Carter. Official ceremonies will begin at 11:30 and continue until 1:30 PM.

This year's theme will be "Minority Businesses Competing in A Changing Global Environment."

For more information, contact Zaida Klem at (503) 245-9253.

William Daley: U.S. Secretary of Commerce on Minority Business Week

When it comes to promoting minority business, President Clinton and I are on the same page.

Fifteen months ago, the President opened a race dialogue. His goal: to build one America for the new century. I challenge everyone to join the President in answering that call.

As Commerce Secretary, I want to work with corporate America to create a more diverse workforce. And I will be discussing this more and more with CEOs.

Lorrie Browning in Pennsylvania was making dried snacks in her own kitchen. She decided to expand her business. But she needed help in setting up a manufacturing plant. So she contacted our manufacturing center. We helped with the design. We helped her get financing. And today, she has a staff of five and is producing not 25 pounds per day, but 225. This is a 1,000 percent increase.

Third, we have ocean resource programs at Commerce. One of their projects is working with minority entrepreneurs on a fish farming initiative. The worldwide demand for fish as a source of protein is soaring. But our natural supply is diminishing. Six states are developing proposals for an inner-city fish farming program.

Fourth, we have export assistance centers. Over 12 million Americans owe their high-paying jobs to exports and since President Clinton has been in office, one-third of our economic growth has come from exports.

Consider this: only four percent of the world's customers are in the United States. That means 96 percent are located outside our borders.

And, just as a ball team needs to use

every natural advantage it has like using Mark McGwire or Sammy Sosa as a pinch hitter - so does a business. Our diversity gives us a great advantage in the global marketplace. For example, our population shares a cultural heritage and languages with every nation in the world. These links can be the determining factor in a deal being done.

Who better knows the markets in so many parts of the world than minority businesses?

world - just as a Fortune 100 company, with a massive distribution system does.

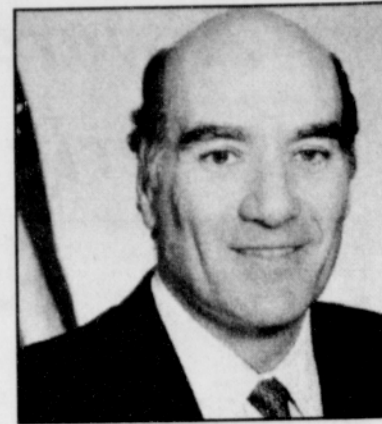
At Commerce, we know that the American economy can only continue to grow if all sectors of the business community prosper. And no one is left behind. One way to make this happen is to bring more minority companies into the economic mainstream. And we are committed to doing that. As part of that commitment, I have some news.

First, we have taken a giant step toward creating a Minority Business Roundtable. This would be similar to the Business Roundtable,

where CEOs come together, network, and discuss common problems. In July, we awarded the Joint Center on Political and Economic Studies a grant. They will develop a plan for a self-sustaining organization. We hope to have the Roundtable in place by this time next year. And we expect it will quickly become a major voice for minority business interests.

As Secretary, I have the opportunity to talk to a lot of business people across the nation. And even in these days of crazy stock market swings, I tell them this is a good time to be in business in America. Since President Clinton took office, over 16 million new jobs have been created. We have the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment on record - although it is still too high. We have the first budget surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon 29 years ago. And the lowest inflation in 32 years. That is very different from our global partners. One quarter of the world's economies are in recession or declining growth.

And I tell small business owners there



William Daley, US Secretary of Commerce.

are a lot of tax-payer supported services they could take advantage of.

What strikes me when I am talking to them is this: most of them know about one, maybe two, government programs that can help them.

But very few know about the broad range of federal resources that are out there. In fact, they may be the best kept secret in Washington - a town that doesn't have many secrets!

William Daley was confirmed by the United States Senate as the 32nd Secretary of Commerce. President Clinton said in nominating him, he is "a man of rare effectiveness. He embodies the values of hard work and fair play, faith and family." As Secretary, he oversees a Department with 33,000 people and a budget of almost \$5 billion. The Department promotes American businesses, maintains America's economic statistics, conducts the census, issues patents and trademarks, sets industrial standards, conducts oceanic research, and forecasts the weather. In addition, Secretary Daley advises President Clinton on all matters concerning commerce, he is business' strong voice in the Cabinet, and a member of the President's economic team.

"A man of rare effectiveness. He embodies the values of hard work and fair play, faith and family."

I have just returned from Africa. that is a market of 800 million people, which is really untapped by American companies. I announced that in the next two years we hope to double the number of Commerce trade specialists in Africa and triple the number of countries where we have offices. These people will be there to help you enter the African market. I will lead a Presidential trade mission there in December. Many American business leaders of African descent have expressed interest, and I thank you.

Hispanic-owned businesses should have a tremendous advantage in these markets. And Asia where Americans of Asian descent should have an edge.

The point is once that first export sale has been made, you have to look for opportunities around the world. That will strengthen our over-all economy.

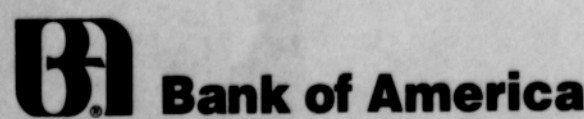
What is really remarkable today is that to sell overseas, you don't have to leave the country. You don't even have to leave home if you have a computer. Today, a small business anywhere in America can sell its products around the



We support Minority Business Enterprise Week.

More and more of today's businesses are owned and operated by minorities and women. Bank of America has experienced professionals with the resources and understanding it takes to make those businesses work. From business loans and payroll services to credit card processing, we're there for you.

put your business in motion



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