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Annual Conference in Seattle to Help Small and Minority Businesses Access the New Economy
Speakers, business resources and networking available to corporate, business, nonprofit and government professionals for \$100

April 21, 2010, SEATTLE - The business opportunity from the economic recovery is not easy for small and minority businesses to access. According to statistics on smallbusiness.com, Washington State is home to more than 500,000 small businesses. There are also 50,000 or more minority-owned and close to 138,000 women-owned businesses. Without the proper knowledge about doing business in the new economy, these business owners and leaders could be missing out.

To help owners and entrepreneurs find opportunities and capital, the Small Business Partners for Prosperity is hosting the "Accessing the New Economy" Conference on May 21, 2010. The daylong event runs from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Seattle. Cost of registration is \$100 before May 5 and \$125 until the day of the event. Details are at www.sbpp.org.

"We want to give our constituency the road map for building capacity by creating, developing, and promoting sustainable growth," notes Farayi Chiro, president of Small Business Partners, formerly known as the African American Partners for Prosperity. "Their success is essential if we are to grow our economy out of this recession."

Chiro adds that the Small Business Partners will help these businesses focus on doing business in regional industry clusters with the highest economic growth for procurement such as Aerospace, IT, Clean Technology, Energy, Life Sciences and Logistics.

Conference keynote speakers include Bob Drewel of the Puget Sound Regional Council and Earl W. Overstreet II of General Microsystems Inc. Education panels will be in three categories: Prosperity Partnership/Top Industry Cluster CEOs, Momentum/Small Business Development Tools, and Fast Lane/Small Businesses on the Move. Beyond speakers, there will be access to regional business leaders, business resources, networking, partnering opportunities as well as access to government officials and corporate leaders.

According to Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director Drewel, "Connecting small and minority-owned businesses to the high yield opportunities in our region's leading industries is one of the most important ways to grow our regional economy. By focusing investment, training and targeted business development activities, this conference will help our region make huge gains, both in building sustainable, successful minority-owned small businesses and in creating widespread prosperity for our region."

The conference list of sponsors includes Small Business Partners for Prosperity, Prosperity Partnership, Puget Sound Regional Council, Urban Enterprise Center, Regional Small Business Development Program and William M. Factory Small Business Incubator. Registration is open now www.sbpp.org. Call 206-686-2278 or email to conference@sbpp.org for questions.

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