



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

HUBZone firms have been placed at the top of small business pecking order by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which recently rearranged the small business contracting hierarchy by issuing a ruling that firms in low-income neighborhoods take priority in the awarding of federal contracts and awards. The court's decision, which was unsealed on March 2, stated that agencies now must consider whether companies in a Historically Underutilized Business Zone can compete for a contract before awarding it under another small business program or on a sole-source basis. The ruling by Chief Judge Emily Hewitt supports an earlier Government Accountability Office decision and is a departure from recent Office of Management and Budget and Justice Department guidance. The case boiled down to whether the HUBZone program took precedence over the 8(a) program — in which businesses are owned by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals. While the service-disabled veteran-owned small business program was not at issue, the court ruled it should be treated the same as the 8(a) program. All three categories are eligible for set-aside small business contracts.

Eight new Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration will join seven existing SBA centers to provide entrepreneurial development services to eligible military veterans and reservists who own or start small businesses. SBA is providing a total of \$2.5 million in grants to the centers, continuing funding to the existing centers, and new funding for the new centers. Services provided by the VBOCs include outreach, assessment, long and short-term business training, counseling, directed referring, electronic or on-line assistance and other technical assistance services to veterans, service disabled veterans, and U.S. Military Reserve Component business owners and entrepreneurs. The closest center to us is located at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Walgreens, the nation's largest drugstore chain, has a Community Corner program designed to highlight the successes of minority-owned businesses. Walgreens will recognize these vendor partners through print advertisements, in-store announcements, coupon booklets, shelf tags, and in-store product demonstrations. This first-of-its-kind supplier diversity initiative is designed to allow consumers to easily identify and purchase

products produced by diverse companies.

The Metro Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC sponsored a wonderful opportunity for business owners to showcase their businesses, network and gather information in regards to business opportunities during its Spring "Taking Care of Business Expo" at the Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites on Tuesday 20 April 2010. It was a phenomenal opportunity to connect with local business professionals and learn about products, services and techniques to improve your business. The workshop sessions included "Doing Business with SRS", "Work-Life Balance" and "Recovery Act Opportunities at SRS". I implore each of you to take advantage of events such as this to increase visibility and to market your business.

Health Reform Information can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform>

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ECONOMIC FORUM information can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy/jobforum>.

President Barack Obama recently signed legislation which provided an additional \$80 million dollars to continue important enhancements in two of the U.S. Small Business Administration's key small business loan programs.. The enhancements, first made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, include higher guarantees on some SBA-backed loans and small business fee relief. The SBA estimates that the \$80 million addition will support about \$2.8 billion in small business lending under the 7(a) and 504 programs. The **President** also signed the **HIRE Act**, a jobs bill that provides small businesses with incentives to spur hiring and help put Americans back to work. Saying that "while this jobs bill is absolutely necessary, it's by no means enough," the President pledged that this was just one step amongst many. The **HIRE Act** will: - Provide tax cuts for businesses that hire someone who has been out of work for at least 2 months. Help businesses to invest in their future by permitting them to write off investments in equipment this year. Encourage job creation by expanding investments in schools and clean energy projects. Maintain investments in roads and bridges

Keeping you Informed

MBDA News

The Minority Business program of the U. S. Government is administered by the Commerce Department, under the direction of St. Louis, MO native David Hinson. The website for the agency is <http://www.mbda.gov>.



Donna Ennis, project director of the [Georgia Minority Business Enterprise Center](#) (GMBEC), has been named one of Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League. "Donna Ennis was selected as one of Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence because of her commitment and dedication to growing minority businesses," said Leona Barr-Davenport, Atlanta Business League president and CEO. "Very simply put, she cares and is results oriented. Her work speaks for itself!"

Save the Date - The U. S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Diversity Agency, announced that Minority Enterprise Development Week Atlanta, will take place August 12 - 14, 2010. The conference theme is "Strategies for Growth and Competitiveness in the Global Economy"



Quote of the Month

"We can become what we need to be by remaining what we are.....Oprah Winfrey

SBA News

Visit the Small Business Administration website to find valuable information in regards minority, women and veteran owned businesses at www.sba.gov and the SBA Georgia District office website at <http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ga/index.html>.

National Small Business Week 2010, 23 - 25 May 2010 in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Small Business Administration'

The Small Business Administration (SBA) recently published proposes rules for a **small business set-aside program** that would give **women business-owners** more opportunities in federal contracting. **A Real Women Owned Small Business Has Finally Arrived Seminar** took place on Thursday, April 15, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST in Bethesda, MD. Get the details in regards to this program by calling 301 652 9504 or clicking [A Real Women Owned Small Business Has Finally Arrived.](#)

UGA Small Business Development Center

University of Georgia Small Business Development Center can be assessed by clicking on the following link <http://www.sbdc.uga.edu/newsite/index.aspx?cart=42eddb4c-e432-451c-a189-1067b921468b&>

Office of Minority Business Development

The April issue of the UGA SBDC March newsletter can be viewed by clicking http://www.sbdc.uga.edu/pdfs/essential_news_april10.pdf

Upcoming UGA SBDC Events in Augusta

- Introduction to QuickBooks - 21 May 2010, 9:00 AM - \$149.00
- Starting A Business - Military Only - 10 May 2010 11:30 AM - Free
- Starting A Business - 18 May 2010 - 6:00 PM - \$69.00

Other Related News & Events

Two League Members, **Mr. Johnny Williams** of Diverse Enterprise and **Mr. Michael Jacobs** of Executive Janitorial can be seen at the below link, discussing with George Eskola the upcoming ordinance in regards to minority preference to be discussed by the Augusta - Richmond County Commission <http://www2.wjbf.com/jbf/video/detail/10ddb99c-9891-102d-a6fd-001ec92a4a0d/72743/>. Please make plans to attend the next Administrative Services meeting to listen to the debate.

Virginia College is having an open house on Thursday, 29 April 2010 at 6:00 pm for those interested in teaching Business related courses such as Small Business Management, Technology in Business, and Management Presentations. The campus is located at 2807 Wylds Road Extension, Suite B.

If you have not done so already, please return your **Census form and encourage others you know to complete and return their form as well. We cannot move forward, until the form is mailed back.** Visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/> for information.

11th Annual Small Business Expo sponsored by the Department of Energy - The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization 11th Annual Small Business Conference and Expo will be held **10 - 12 May 2010** at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta. The room rate for the four conference hotels close to Stay at one of the four conference hotels within walking distance of the GWCC is **\$140.00/night (plus taxes & fees)**. Reservations can be done online or by calling the hotel directly, asking for the "DOE Small Business Conference" rate at the Omni Hotel, Westin Peachtree Plaza, Downtown Marriott and the Embassy Suites. The registration rate is **\$350.00** and onsite registration is **\$425.00**.

*Companies looking to do Business with the Federal Government should register for the online training class - Ethics Training For Government Contractors which will take place on **Friday, May 14, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST**. call 301 652 9504, Ext.2 to register.*

The Women Inspiration Network recently held a Women Empowerment Brunch featuring the topic :Are you Dreaming or Living "Start Living Your Dreams" on Saturday, 17 April 2010 at the Staybridge Suites. Visit www.mywomensinspirationalnetwork.com to find out information on the group or email win@mywomensinspirationalnetwork.com.

Business League News & Views

The Youth Entrepreneur Program of the CSRA Business League will hold its next meeting on Saturday, 24 April 2010 at the New Bethlehem Community Center from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. The program is designed to encourage and inspire youth ages 12 - 17 to think about starting and owning a business on their path to be successful in life, as well as teach leadership and social skills.. Ms Shirmaine Ivey has been named coordinator of the program and she can be reached at shirmaineivey@business-league.org. Featured speakers for the Saturday program will feature former Solicitor General Harold V. Jones, II, staff attorney at Shepard, Plunkett, Hamilton, & Boudreaux, LLP Law Firm and Mrs. Natalie Tracy, owner of Natalie's Virtuous Boutique. We are still recruiting, so contact Ms. Ivey by email or by phone at 706 722 - 0994 to register your child or children.

Are you a Women, Minority or Disadvantaged Business owner or a supporter, if you are, please consider purchasing a League membership. The League will Celebrate its 40th Anniversary this year and your support is vital to our mission of assisting Small Business owners in the CSRA. Join the League in 2010.

Happy Earth Day, take time today to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day celebrations.

CSRA Business League
Board of Directors and Staff

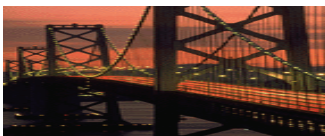
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SERVICES

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Small Business Incubator Office Space
Technology Assistance and Resources



The CSRA Business League, Inc. has been “Serving our Community with Pride” since its founding in 1970. Our mission is to support and assist small, minority and disadvantaged businesses in their efforts to become successful and prosperous. Our goal is to serve as an information clearinghouse and referral source, in addition to providing networking opportunities and technology training for small, disadvantaged and minority owned businesses.

As a 501© 3 not for profit organization, we are dedicated to providing those we serve with modern strategies and services that gives the business owner the tools to maintain a thriving and successful small business.

Membership Corner

Are you or have you ever been a member of the CSRA Business League, Inc.? The League is having a Membership Drive, please assist us by purchasing a League membership. Please contact us for the benefits of a League membership and take a moment to visit our revamped website at www.business-league.org.

**Our Newest Member’s
** Solicitor Harold Jones****

MEMBERSHIP FEES

STUDENT	\$ 25.00	NON-PROFIT	\$ 50.00
INDIVIDUAL/LLC	\$100.00	CORPORATE	\$150.00

**SINCE 1970
THE BUSINESS LEAGUE
HAS SERVED AS A BRIDGE
TO SMALL BUSINESS
SUCCESS IN THE CSRA**

**Youth Entrepreneur
Program Meeting**

**24 April 2010
11:00 - 1:00**

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT
CLUB NIGHTLIFE WITH
CHER BEST
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
NETWORKING EVENT

40TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE CSRA
BUSINESS LEAGUE