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GEORGIA'S LEADING AUTHORITY IN MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT KICKS OFF ITS 2008 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY EXPO ... *THE POWER OF INCLUSION*

GMSDC Hosts A-List Line Up of Speakers & Activities; Facilitates Progressive Business Among Corporate Giants and Ethnic Minority Business Enterprises

ATLANTA, GA (March) -- Imagine if David and Goliath had a productive platform for dialogue back in their day ... it might have been a different, more harmonious twist on the outcome of their infamous encounter. Providing this platform for engaging dialogue and valuable exchange is what Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council (GMSDC) spends its days facilitating for Georgia's corporate heavy-weights and progressive ethnic minority business enterprises (MBE).

Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council's 2008 Business Opportunity Expo ... *The Power of Inclusion* (BOE) kicks off on March 18-19 as its flagship initiative adding 'real value' for minority business development throughout the state of Georgia. The two-day, power packed event is hosted at the Georgia International Convention Center.

"We have been a trailblazing resource for minority business development in Georgia for more than 30 years and to some degree -- a best kept secret in Atlanta," says Interim President & CEO Mignon Philpotts Bruce. "Georgia has made monumental strides in the industry and our constituency of certified ethnic minority business enterprises and corporate members have set the standard for supplier/purchasing practices nationwide. This year is our time to tell our story and more aggressively optimize the opportunities that are a direct result of Georgia's diverse business playing field," added Bruce.

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Experience the Power

The 2008 Business Opportunity Expo ... *Power of Inclusion* is the largest and most productive in GMSDC history. Chris Hanks, Dr. Dennis Kimbro and John Carter -- all motivating cornerstones of powerful business practices in their respective areas -- will lead innovative workshops and networking activities. Also, centerpiece to the two-day affair is BOE's Trade Fair -- an epicenter of company/product showcasing as well as a launch pad for major MBE and purchasing deals. Additionally:

- **Day One:**

- Experience the Power Innovation Workshops: Interactive sessions and tools for infusing originality in all areas of business and making it work strategically.
- Trade Fair & Ribbon Cutting: GMSDC's Major Sponsors kick-off the trade fair ushering attendees to corporate and supplier exhibits and stay connected in the IT Industry sponsored Cyber Café.
- WineDown Reception: Wind Down at the MBE Sponsored reception to end the power-packed day and continue building relationships with key contacts.
- GMSDC 1-on-1 Power sessions: Pre-scheduled meetings with MBEs and corporate participants.

- **Day Two:**

- Annual Spirit of Alliance Awards Dinner: GMSDC's answer to the Oscars, this highly attended black-tie affair celebrates companies that have excelled in supplier diversity on both sides of the coin (MBE/Corporate). Nominated and selected by their peers, the Spirit of Alliance Awards Dinner is GMSDC's "Thank you!" to those on the frontline of advancing minority and supplier business development.

"Of the many business-forward events we host each year, BOE is by far the most progressive because of its size, scope and participation among MBEs and corporate groups alike," says Tyra Paytes, GMSDC Program and Events chairperson and Assistant Vice President, SunTrust Bank. "Not only are lucrative business relationships formed, but it's also a key moment in time for us to salute Georgia's business community for the great progress in minority business development from which we all benefit," said Paytes.

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On the Horizon

In 2008, GMSDC has a range of new and exciting activities planned. Launching in early April will be a reloaded Web site -- gmsdc.org -- for its existing constituency and anyone globally that is interested in minority supplier/buyer business development in Georgia or becoming a member of GMSDC. The new portal will more seamlessly align with the GMSDC's parent council National Minority Supplier Development as well as serve as a platform for best practice sharing, industry trends, applications processing, bid announcements among other things.

Join the Power

For more information of participating in GMSDC's 2008 Business Opportunity Expo ... *The Power of Inclusion*, go to gmsdc.org or contact Ly Eldridge at lye@gmsdc.org. For information on becoming a constituent of GMSDC contact Lorene Gregory at loreneg@gmsdc.org. For press inquiries, contact Nichole D. Taylor at taylor@taylorcommunicationsgroup.com.

About GMSDC

The Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council is a not-for-profit organization that fosters value-driven partnerships between corporate entities, ethnic-minority owned businesses and government entities in the state of Georgia that may otherwise not be possible. With more than 150 local and national corporate members and constituency of more than 500 certified MBEs, GMSDC's offers industry-leading programs and resources for enhancing the economic landscape for minority development in Georgia. GMSDC is located in Atlanta, Georgia as a regional affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

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