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**GMSDC NAMES GEORGIA'S LEADERS IN SUPPLIER DIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT DURING ITS
SPIRIT OF ALLIANCE AWARDS CEREMONY**

The Home Depot, SunTrust Banks, 'On Top Furniture' Among Corporate and MBE Big Winners

ATLANTA, GA (March 2008) – Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council (GMSDC) announced today winners of its 2008 *Spirit of Alliance Awards*, which honors trailblazers in supplier diversity development in Georgia. The finale celebration marked the culmination of its two-day Business Opportunity Expo hosted on March 18 -19 that attracted more than 700 companies across Georgia.

"As the authority on supplier diversity development in the region, GMSDC has front-row seats to the monumental strides being made every day by our corporate members and certified ethnic-minority businesses and in many cases their efforts are unsung" says, Mignon Philpotts Bruce, Interim President of GMSDC. "The *Spirit of Alliance Awards Ceremony* is our moment in time when we trumpet their accomplishments, as well as showcase to the nation, Georgia's expanding footprint in economic vitality through minority and supplier diversity development," says Bruce.

No Place Like "Home" ...

Nominated, judged and selected by a panel of peers, the *Spirit of Alliance Award honorees* consist of corporations, certified ethnic MBEs, individuals and government entities. For the first time, **The Home Depot** swept two of the most prestigious categories including "**Corporation of the Year,**" and "**Advocate of the Year**" going to The Home Depot's Michelle Johnson. Also notable was the "**George Lottier Rising Star**" which was awarded to **SunTrust Banks**. This category was newly created in memory of the late George Lottier -- GMSDC President from 2001 – 2007 (see below for category descriptions).

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AWARD CATEGORY	WINNERS	DESCRIPTION
Corporation of the Year	The Home Depot	Corporate entity that has unparalleled commitment to GMSDC, minority business development and provide equal economic access through its minority purchasing programs
Advocate of the Year	Michelle Johnson, The Home Depot	Corporate individual who is a catalyst for minority business development in general and demonstrated advancement through specific individual efforts
Supplier of the Year I	On Top Furniture, LLC	MBE with Annual Sales Less than \$1M that consistently delivers quality products and services to their customers
Supplier of the Year II	McNeal Professional Services, Inc.	MBE with Annual Sales \$1M - \$10M that consistently delivers quality products and services to their customers
Supplier of the Year III	Ryla Teleservices, Inc.	MBE with Annual Sales \$10M - \$50M that consistently delivers quality products and services to their customers
Supplier of the Year IV	Pyramid Consulting, Inc.	MBE with Annual Sales Greater than \$50M that consistently delivers quality products and services to their customers
George Lottier Rising Star Award	SunTrust Banks, Inc.	Corporation with leading advancement in minority business development programs
Executive of the Year	Eric Seldon, AFLAC	Senior-level corporate executive that has a demonstrated track record of accomplishments in minority business development and serves as an internal champion of progress at their companies.
Buyer of the Year – IT	Dana Hasson, The Coca-Cola Company	Individual that has facilitated successful procurement of MBE contracts in the Information Technology Industry Group
Buyer of the Year - Professional Services	Mike Murphy, UPS	Individual that has facilitated successful procurement of MBE contracts in the Professional Services Industry Group
Buyer of the Year - Staffing	Sandy Webb, AT&T	Individual that has facilitated successful procurement of MBE contracts in the Staffing Industry Group
Buyer of the Year - Real Estate & Facilities Services	Darryl Bufford, Macy's	Individual that has facilitated successful procurement of MBE contracts in the Real Estate & Facilities Services Industry Group
Buyer of the Year - Transportation & Logistics	Jackie Reese, UPS	Individual that has facilitated successful procurement of MBE contracts in the Transportation & Logistics Industry Group
Crystal Award	AT&T	Selected by certified ethnic-minority business owners, this award recognizes a GMSDC corporate member or government entity that have excelled in minority business development
Eagle Award	Rachael Humphrey, Mail Centers Plus	MBE that has promoted and created economic development and advancement among minority business enterprises in Georgia. This peer to peer award is presented by GMSDC's MBEIC

The Power in Action

The 2008 Business Opportunity Expo themed – *Power of Inclusion* -- and *Spirit of Alliance Awards* was the largest and most productive in GMSDC's more than 30-year history. For a complete listing of *Spirit of Alliance Awards* nominees and winners contact Angelas@gmsdc.org or Carmen L. Cruz at carmen@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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