



By Angela Soyemi

NewsLink is the vital source of relevant news and information about Corporate Supplier Diversity and minority business development within the State of Georgia.

**GMSDC, The Resource for Linking Committed Corporations and Progressive Minority Suppliers**

*The mission of GMSDC is to foster and expand mutually beneficial economic opportunities between certified minority enterprises and corporations within the state of Georgia. Join us today and take your business to the next level.*

Visit [www.gmsdc.org](http://www.gmsdc.org) or call 404.589.4929 for more information.

*GMSDC is a not-for-profit organization that links corporate America and minority-owned enterprises in long-term business partnerships. The Council trains, educates, and sensitizes corporations about the economic benefits of using certified minority businesses, and works to better equip certified minority businesses to compete for contracts. GMSDC is a regional affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council.*

**EVENTS**

**ONGOING**  
**1st Tuesdays. Pre-Certification Briefing**  
 Learn more about membership benefits

June 3, 2008  
 July 1, 2008  
 August 1, 2008

[www.gmsdc.org](http://www.gmsdc.org) for monthly event dates and details

Do you have suggestions for news topics in GMSDC's NewsLink? Send your ideas to Mignon Philpotts Bruce at [mignonb@gmsdc.org](mailto:mignonb@gmsdc.org)

**GMSDC Names Georgia's Leaders in Supplier Diversity Development During its Spirit of Alliance Ceremony**

Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council announced winners of its 2008 Spirit of Alliance Awards, which recognizes trailblazers in supplier diversity development in Georgia. The celebration marked the culmination of GMSDC's two-day "Power of Inclusion" Business Opportunity Expo, hosted on March 18-19, which attracted more than 700 companies throughout the state.

"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. 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."

Nominated, judged and selected by a panel of peers, the Spirit of Alliance Award honorees consisted of corporations, certified MBEs, individuals and government entities. For the first time, The Home Depot clinched two of the most prestigious categories including "Corporation of the Year," and "Advocate of the Year." Also notable was the "George Lottier Rising Star" designation, which was awarded to SunTrust Banks. This new category was created in honor of the late George Lottier — GMSDC president from 2001-2007.

Participants of the expo enjoyed a full day of powerful workshops, a trade fair of corporate and supplier exhibits, one-on-one pre-scheduled power sessions with MBEs and corporate participants, and the MBE-sponsored WineDown reception to end the power-packed day.

**Why Should I Get Certified?**

Are you interested in doing business with Georgia's *Fortune* 1000 companies? "MBEs can benefit from the many opportunities offered through GMSDC certification services, corporate networking, educational programs and other minority business development programs," says Lissa Owens, GMSDC Chair Board of Directors, Georgia-Pacific LLC. The mission of GMSDC is to foster and expand mutually beneficial economic opportunities between certified minority enterprises and corporations within the State of Georgia. Join us today and take your business to the next level.

For more information on minority certification or corporate membership, visit [www.gmsdc.org](http://www.gmsdc.org) or call 404.589.4929.

"The Expo gave me great exposure to help grow my business with new and existing customers."

— Rachel Wilson, president and CEO, SGL

"The Expo, and especially the trade fair, was a success for Cox. Attending and supporting the Expo is the best way for us to expose our executives to the diversity of minority suppliers in Georgia. Cox strongly believes in its commitment to support minority businesses and organizations, such as GMSDC, that work to increase opportunities that create capacity-building within the MBE community."

— Ruby Patton, senior manager, Supplier Diversity, Cox Communications



George Lottier Rising Star Award recipients (From left) Tyra Paytes, assistant vice president, SunTrust Banks; Pat Lottier, publisher, *Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine*; Linda Potter, senior vice president of Corporate Procurement, SunTrust Banks; and Lissa Owens, Workforce Strategies Supplier Diversity manager, Georgia-Pacific LLC



Advocate of the Year Michelle Johnson, The Home Depot Director Supplier Diversity

**We salute all nominees for their outstanding commitment to supplier development, and congratulate the following winners:**

Supplier of the Year I	On Top Furniture LLC
Supplier of the Year II	McNeal Professional Services Inc.
Supplier of the Year III	Ryla Teleservices Inc.
Supplier of the Year IV	Pyramid Consulting Inc.
George Lottier Rising Star Award	SunTrust Banks Inc.
Executive of the Year	Eric Seldon, Aflac
Corporation of the Year	The Home Depot
Advocate of the Year	Michelle Johnson, The Home Depot
Buyer of the Year - IT	Dana Hasson, The Coca-Cola Company
Buyer of the Year - Professional Services	Mike Murphy, UPS
Buyer of the Year - Staffing	Sandy Webb, AT&T
Buyer of the Year - Real Estate & Facilities Services	Darryl Bufford, Federal Department Stores Inc.
Buyer of the Year - Transportation & Logistics	Jackie Reese, UPS
Crystal Award	AT&T
Eagle Award	Mail Centers Plus