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Women's Business Center, Inc.

The Buzz About Biz...

February 2008

Welcome Friends!
Renew Womenbiz 2008



New Small Business Administration Post in Mobile Filled

The Small Business Administration (SBA)'s District Director Michael Ricks has announced the selection of a new SBA Senior Area Manager for the Mobile, Alabama metropolitan area.

Brent McMahan, former lead public affairs officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Biloxi, has accepted the new position, effective November 26, 2007.

To continue, [click here](#). To

Welcome Friends!

It's that time of year again! With tax season on its way and W2 statements mailed, it's time to get your receipts, forms and statements organized. For business owners, tax season can be stressful even when you're organized. If you're among the many that are still scrambling to gather last-minute records or receipts, here are some tax tips for small and growing businesses, [click here](#).

In this issue, look for useful tools that can be used in your everyday business life and the calendar of upcoming workshops and seminars.

This newsletter is for everyone, those just starting a new business, more experienced business owners and everyone in between.

Help us meet your business needs by sending your ideas, suggestions, questions or topics you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter to sbrowder@womenbiz.biz.

To your business success,

Sylvia Browder
Project Director



Renew Womenbiz 2008



- Are you a Woman Friendly business seeking a

read article by Press-Register,
[click here.](#)

Quarterly Quorum, gets Rave Reviews!



The Board of Directors and
Advisory Council of the
Women's Business Center, Inc.
hosted

**The Quarterly Quorum, On
the Edge of Success: "CPAs,
Finances, 2008 Tax Law
Changes, OH My!"** on
Wednesday, January 23rd at
Carrabba's Italian Grill in
Mobile. To read article,
[click here.](#)

Certification & Procurement Workshop, a success!



The Women's Business Center,
Inc., hosted a Certification and
Procurement Seminar on

way to reach the women's market?

- Would you like to get more customers from the seven county region of southern Alabama?
- Would you like to pay one price to have your message seen both in print and on the Internet?
- Would you like your advertising dollars to support business training and coaching services for start up and growing entrepreneurs?
- Would you like to join a network of women and men who believe in the success of others as much as they do their own?



Then you need to be a part of the 2008 Womenbiz Resource Directory!

Womenbiz is a service of the non profit Women's Business Center, Inc. Proceeds from the directory go to directly support the work of the Women's Business Center in Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe Counties.

Don't be left out!

Sign up and pay online, [click here](#), or call us at 251-660-2725 or 800-378-7461.

Deadline for ads: February 15, 2008.
Publication date: March 2008

Producing a Successful Business Plan to Start a New Business!

Starting a new business without a proper business plan is akin to taking a blind walk in the dark without no road or map to follow. It should not come as a surprise to learn that the majority of new start ups consequently fail within the first two years dashing the hopes and dreams of many budding entrepreneurs. To continue this article, [click here.](#)

Register Today!

NINE WEEKS CAN CHANGE YOUR FUTURE!



Find out if your business idea is "feasible",
and if starting or growing your small business

Wednesday, January 30th at the University of South Alabama Student Center in Mobile.

To continue, [click here](#).



Thank You

[City of Mobile](#)

Our partners are the life blood of the Women's Business Center, Inc. Without their commitment of resources, dollars, and in kind services, we would not exist.

[Become a Partner](#)

Are You BizReady?

Thinking about starting your own small business? Let our experts be your guide!

Come to the Women's Business Center's BizReady workshop and find out how you can turn your dream into a reality.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT **First Step FastTrac®**

is the right decision before you spend too much time or money.

Participating in the Women's Business Center's First Step FastTrac® entrepreneurial training you can evaluate and perfect your idea in a safe and supportive environment. And, by the end of the nine week course you will know if your business idea has "legs"! To read more, [click here](#).

We are currently accepting registration for a new class to begin February 19, 2008. Call today for more details!

To download our informational flyer, [click here](#), to register online, [click here](#), or for additional information, please call LaToya at 251-660-2725.

Upcoming Events



February Calendar

For a full description of each workshop, fees, time and dates, please [click here](#) to download our February Calendar.

BizReady - Mobile

Schedule: Thursday, February 14

Thinking about starting your own small business? Let our experts be your guide! Come to the Women's Business Center's BizReady workshop and find out how you can turn your dream into a reality.

You will learn:

- The traits of successful entrepreneurs
- The five challenges every business face
- How the WBC's programs and services can help you reach your goals

Loan Clinic - Mobile

Schedule: Thursday, February 14

Need capital to start or grow your small business? Is a Small Business Administration (SBA) Community Express Loan the answer for you? Community Express loans range from \$5,000 to 35,000 with no collateral required for new businesses. Businesses two years and older are eligible up to \$50,000.

Register today for BIZREADY

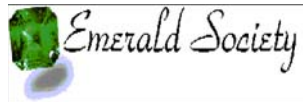
[Click here](#) for our online
calendar.

Renew Your 2008 Womenbiz Directory



[Click here](#) for more
details about reserving
your spot for the 2008
directory.

Become an
EMERALD SOCIETY
member TODAY!



Current members, enjoy
our new
member-to-member
discounts. For
application, [click here](#).

Quick Links...

Success Circle: Fairhope & Mobile

Schedule: Wednesday, February 20 (Fairhope)
Tuesday, February 26 (Mobile)

A monthly roundtable discussion and mentoring group for business women. Meets every 4th Tuesday at Somerby of West Mobile & every 3rd Wednesday at Homestead Village in Fairhope.

First Step FastTrac® How to Start a Successful Small Business - Mobile

Schedule: Tuesdays, February 19 - March 15

If you're thinking about starting your own business or need a business plan, check out First Step FastTrac®! First Step FastTrac® is a practical, hands-on business development program designed to help entrepreneurs start, manage and grow a successful small business. First Step FastTrac® uses your business concept as a case study - allowing you to evaluate and perfect your idea in a safe and supportive environment. By the time you finish the 9 session program, you'll know whether your idea is a "go" or "no go", and if starting or growing your small business is the right decision before you spend too much time or money.

Turning Prospects into Clients to Reach Your Sales Goals - Mobile

Schedule: Thursday, February 21

More clients equal more profits. If improving your bottom line is a priority to you don't miss this workshop! Take advantage of Guy Fletcher's 20+ years of successful sales experience and learn the critical steps to growing your business by increasing your client base.

Small Business Staffing and Legal Concerns - Mobile

Schedule: Friday, February 29

Do you run a small business? Are you responsible for interviewing prospective employees? If yes, you don't want to miss this informative workshop! Focusing on practical training for small business owners and managers, this training emphasizes interviewing techniques; the legalities of interviewing prospective employees, an introduction to behavior based interviewing techniques, and a general overview of the legal issues affecting small business.

To view our calendar on our website, please, [click here](#). To register or obtain more information on any of our events, call the Women's Business Center at 251-660-2725 or email info@womenbiz.biz. Please pre-register as events are subject to cancellation for lack of registration.

- [Our Website](#)
- [Join Emerald Society](#)
- [Join Advisory Council](#)
- [More About Us](#)
- [Womenbiz Directory](#)

Join Our Mailing List!



Women's History Month Luncheon
 March 19, 12:00-1:30

Media Workshop with Drexel Gilbert
 Co-sponsored by Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
 March 28, 8:30-3
 Early Registration Fee - \$99,
 After March 3 - \$125

SAL Luncheon & Award Ceremony
 April 30, 11:30-1:30

Art As Business with Alyson Stanfield,
 a nationally known art marketing trainer
 June 7, 9-3
 Early Registration Fee - \$99,
 After May 8 - \$125

On the road with the Bizmobile

Do you want to start a business or are a small business owner in need of technical assistance? The Bizmobile will be in your city:



Bizmobile in Clarke County
Date: February 7 & 14, 2008
Time: 10am - 3pm
Location: various locations

Bizmobile in Conecuh County
Date: February 6, 2008
Time: 10am - 3pm
Location: various locations

Bizmobile in Escambia County
Date: February 20, 2008
Time: 10am - 7pm
Location: Escambia County Industrial Development Authority or Brewton Chamber

Bizmobile in Monroe County
Date: February 12 & 27, 2008
Time: 10am - 3pm
Location: Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce

For more Information on these events or services of the WBC, call 251-660-2725 or toll-free 800-378- 7461 or email LaToya Brooks at info@womenbiz.biz.

Community Events & News

2008 Katrina Economic Development Summit

Suppliers Neded! Contracts Available! February 5-8, 2008 New Orleans, LA. For more info, contact Pam Dessaso at (866) 277-7055, download the [postcard](#) or visit

www.postkatrinasummit.org

Diversity Business Network

Diversity Business Network will be held on Thursday, February 7 at the Bishop State Community College, 351 North Broad Street in the Black History Museum from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This quarterly networking event is designed to give minority-owned businesses the opportunity to promote their companies, learn how to market products and services. John Boston, procurement leader for ThyssenKrupp, will be the guest speaker on how to do business with ThyssenKrupp. There is no charge to attend, however, reservations are requested by contacting Brenda Rembert, brembert@mobilechamber.com or 251-431-8607.

Entrepreneur Forum

Join us for the sixth seminar in the Entrepreneur Forum series on Wednesday, February 13 in the Chamber's McGowin Room from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. You can attend one session or all of the monthly series. This week's presenter is Betty Robinson of Betty's Best Jewelry and Gifts. You've got a major project to complete by a deadline, but you still have your daily responsibilities and tasks, how do you get it all done? Other discussions: On your Mark, Get Set, Go! - How to enhance your effectiveness; Busy or productive - A little now is a lot later. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for potential members and includes lunch. For reservations, contact Brenda Rembert at 431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com.

Wear Red Day in Mobile

On February 15, 2008, the American Heart Association is asking companies all over Mobile to participate in Wear Red Day for Women. We want to empower women to reduce their risk of heart disease, the #1 killer of women in America!

Go Red for Women Luncheon: Friday, February 15, 2008, 10:30-1:30, Battle House Hotel. Chairwoman, Honorable Jamie Ison. Key-note speaker, Mrs.Patsy Riley, wife of Governor Riley. Table Sponsorships: \$1,500 for table of 10. Tickets are \$75.00. Red purse raffle (each with a prize inside and one containing a \$5,000 Hildago Ring), all male fashion show with state and local celebrities. For more information, please call Ann Davis at (251) 461-4004, or email to ann.davis@heart.org or [click here](#) for flyer.

Market in May Business Expo

"Market in May" Business Expo sponsored by Simply Silver, Mashun Johnson, will be held at the Ashbury Suites on Saturday, May 10th (Mother's Day weekend) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the expo is to give small business owner a venue for advertising and let the public know that they are out there and ready to serve. For more information, please call Mashun at 251-689-1871.

The Women's Business Center, Inc., would like to thank you for your support of our mission. If you know anyone that can benefit from our newsletter, please forward to them.

To your business success,

WBC Staff



The Women's Business Center is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact LaToya Brooks at 252-660-2725, 1301 Azalea Rd, #201A, Mobile, AL 36693. info@womenbiz.biz.

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