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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE  
NEWS  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet to Speak at 2014 National  
MED Week Conference**

*U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary Andrews, MBDA National Director Castillo will  
also deliver remarks at event*

**WASHINGTON (July 28, 2014)** —As part of the Minority Business Development Agency's (MBDA) continued collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), MBDA announced today that SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet will speak at the 2014 National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference in Washington, D.C. on August 1. U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Bruce Andrews and MBDA National Director Alejandra Y. Castillo will also speak during the conference.

As one of the longest running Minority Business Enterprise events in the United States, the National MED Week Conference recognizes outstanding achievements of leading minority entrepreneurs and organizations while positioning business owners for opportunities that drive growth.

In the spirit of the theme of the conference, *Connecting Business with Opportunity*, MED Week 2014 will provide opportunities for approximately 500 small business owners and entrepreneurs to gain expert knowledge on business growth strategies; connect with senior public officials, industry executives and leaders from all over the country; and, learn about cutting-edge tools that can give their business a competitive advantage. The conference also gives attendees the unique opportunity to participate in business networking, power-learning sessions, a business-to-business matchmaking session, and the MED Week Awards Luncheon recognizing minority business leaders and organizations.

**WHO:** Bruce Andrews, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce  
Maria Contreras-Sweet, SBA Administrator  
Alejandra Y. Castillo, MBDA National Director

**WHAT:** The 2014 National MED Week Conference

**WHEN:** Friday, August 1, 2014  
MBDA National Director Castillo - 8:00 a.m. ET  
SBA Administrator Contreras-Sweet - 8:10 a.m. ET  
U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Andrews - 12:45 p.m. ET

WHERE: Washington Hilton  
1919 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20009

RSVP: All media wishing to attend this conference must RSVP to MBDA Public Affairs at [abetancourt@mbda.gov](mailto:abetancourt@mbda.gov), [hchu@mbda.gov](mailto:hchu@mbda.gov), or 202-482-1375 by July 30, 2014.

For more information on the 2014 MED Week Award winners and ceremony, visit <http://medweek.mbda.gov>.



***About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)***

MBDA, [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov), is the only Federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses. Our programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues and expand regionally, nationally and internationally. Services are provided through a network of MBDA Business Centers. After 45 years of service, MBDA continues to be a dedicated strategic partner to all U.S. minority-owned businesses, committed to providing programs and services that build size, scale and capacity through access to capital, contracts and markets. Follow us on Twitter [@usmbda](https://twitter.com/usmbda).

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