
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Website: www.mbda.gov
Fax: (202) 482-5117

Contact: MBDA Public Affairs
Phone: (202) 482-1375
Email: abetancourt@mbda.gov

Nominations Sought for 2014 National MED Week Awards

Program Recognizes Outstanding Achievements of Minority Entrepreneurs, Individuals, Organizations

WASHINGTON (February 12, 2014) — The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) today announced that it is accepting nominations for the 2014 National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Awards competition. The program celebrates and recognizes the outstanding achievements of minority entrepreneurs, as well as individuals and organizations that have demonstrated leadership and commitment in advancing the minority business community.

“The MED Week awards were created to recognize individuals and firms who exemplify entrepreneurial innovation and a commitment to creating jobs while helping our nation remain competitive in the global economy,” said Alejandra Castillo, MBDA Acting National Director. “With nearly six million minority-owned businesses across the United States, we anticipate having a robust slate of candidates to choose from. We look forward to the opportunity to highlight some of these outstanding business leaders.”

Award categories include minority-owned firms and champions of minority business development, each with four specific awards. Nominations are also being solicited for the Abe Venable Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement, which recognizes an individual who has played an integral role in the progress of minority business development over the course of his/her life, and the Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award, which recognizes individuals who have achieved significant results in expanding minority business enterprises and demonstrated exceptional leadership in the public or private sector.

MBDA encourages nominations from chambers of commerce, business and trade associations, prime contractors, federal, state and local government agencies, and individual business owners.

Nomination packets for this competition must be postmarked by March 28, 2014. The winners will be announced on May 30, 2014, and honored August 1, 2014, at an awards ceremony during the National MED Week Conference at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC.

For more information on the categories, sub-categories and general submission instructions, please visit <http://medweek.mbda.gov/>.

About the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA, 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.

###