

For Immediate Release

2014 Eclipse Award honorees announced at NWBOC Decades of Excellence II conference; Unique award program recognizes certified women business owners for achievements in six categories

Lake Park, FLA: (May 15, 2014): The 2014 NWBOC Eclipse Awards honorees were announced Thursday evening, May 8, 2014, at the National Women Business Owners Corporation's Decades of Excellence II awards gala at PGA National Resort and Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, according to Janet Harris-Lange, President, NWBOC, the predominate certifier of woman-owned businesses in the United States. The national award program was created to recognize, reward and celebrate exceptional achievements of certified women business owners, according to Harris-Lange. During the evening's ceremonies, sixteen Eclipse awards were presented to a diverse group of women entrepreneurs selected by an esteemed panel of judges.

Eclipse Awards were given in three levels, Gold, Silver and Bronze and in six categories. They are as follows:

Category: <u>2014 Eclipse Award for Excellence in Innovation</u>--(honors a business for inventing or creating an innovative or unique product, technology, or concept, and then taking their innovation forward successfully to the marketplace). Gold Award: Rebecca Boenigk, CEO, Neutral Posture, Inc., Bryan, TX; Silver Award: Dianne Denommee, Principal, Vulcana, LLC, Fairfield, NJ; Bronze Award: Carol Keogh, President and CEO, ESI Ergonomic Solutions, LLC, Mesa, AZ.

Category: <u>2014 Eclipse Award for Exceptional Certification Utilization</u> – (recognizes a company for outstanding usage of their WBE, WOSB, or EDWOSB certification which resulted in significantly growing the business) Bronze Award Trudy R. Poret, CEO, Tarpan Construction, LLC, Cottonport, LA.

Category: <u>2014 Eclipse Award for Outstanding Supplier Diversity Program--</u>(recognizing a company for establishing an outstanding comprehensive and successful in-house supplier diversity utilization program) Gold Award: Hannah Kain, President and CEO, ALOM, Freemont, CA; Silver Award: Elizabeth Harshfield, President, Exhibit Arts, LLC, Wichita, KS.

Category: <u>2014 Eclipse Intrepid Award</u> –(recognizing emerging companies 3 years or younger that have taken a fearless and brave stance in business including creating exceptional growth, experiencing outstanding success and differentiating themselves in the marketplace) Gold Award is Trudy R. Poret, CEO, Tarpan Construction, LLC, Cottonport, LA.

Category: <u>2014 Eclipse Triumph Award</u> (recognizes woman business owners for outstanding leadership, ingenuity, and perseverance in successfully navigating a challenge, barrier or obstacle affecting her company) Gold Award: Rebecca Boenigk, CEO, Neutral Posture, Inc., Bryan, Texas. Silver Award: Tricia K. Ascher, President, Ascher's Janitorial Service LLC, Abrams, Wisconsin; Bronze Award: Crystal Arlington, President, Affiliated Grounds Maintenance Group, Lake City, PA.

Category:<u>2014 Eclipse Award for Outstanding Company Culture</u>. (Recognizing women business owners who have created an ideal work environment and participates in their community) This category has been divided into two segments, Business Services and Manufacturing.

<u>Business Services Category</u>- Gold Award: Tammy Cohen, President, InfoMart, Marietta, Georgia; Silver Award: Kandi Chapman, President, Midwest Backgrounds, Inc, Herron, IL; Bronze Award: Rita MacDermott, President. Nouveau Presentations, LLC, Scottsdale, AZ; Bronze Award: Carol Keogh, President and CEO, ESI Ergonomic Solutions, LLC, Mesa, AZ.

<u>Manufacturing Category</u>- Gold Award: Jo Reinhardt, CEO, Industrial Louvers, Inc., Delano, MN; Silver Award: Carla Squatrito, President, Carla's Pasta, Inc., South Windsor, CN; Bronze Award: Rebecca Boenigk, Neutral Posture, Inc., Bryan, Texas.

Founded in 1995, National Women Business Owners Corporation (NWBOC) leads the way as the nation's first national WBE certifiers. The goal of NWBOC is to increase competition for corporate and government contracts through implementation of a national certification program for women business owners. NWBOC is located at 1001 W. Jasmine Drive, #G, Lake Park, Florida 33403. The web address is <u>www.NWBOC.org</u>. For more information about NWBOC or the Eclipse Award Program, contact Janet Harris-Lange, President, (800) 675-5066 or janet@nwboc.org.

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