



THOUSANDS OF WBE CERTIFICATIONS PROCESSED BY THE GREATER WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL AS IT CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF INSPIRING, ENGAGING AND DEVELOPING WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS IN 2015

Founding Partners Delta Air Lines and UPS among those Recognized during its Year-long Observation; Celebration Also Marked With New Board Leadership

ATLANTA (FEBRUARY 2015) -- The Greater Women's Business Council, Inc. (GWBC), the leading provider of certification and development resources for certified women business enterprises (WBEs) in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, is celebrating 15 years of inspiring, engaging and empowering women business owners during 2015. Founded on April, 11, 2000, GWBC will pay tribute to the women businesses, corporate partners and allied alliances that have contributed to the success and sustainable growth of the organization.

In 2000, Delta Air Lines and UPS joined forces with the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) to create a business mix that would safeguard the interests of women-owned businesses in Georgia. Within a year, they gained support from corporations such as Georgia Power, AT&T and The Coca-Cola Company. And by 2009, the borders of opportunity expanded to include North Carolina and South Carolina. These major milestones formed the GWBC we know today.

To kick off its milestone year, GWBC will host its first major event -- its Annual Meeting -- at Delta Air Lines as a fitting venue to reflect on its past successes and inform on what's in store for 2015. Additional highlights for 2015 include:

- The new POP, Too! Power of Partnering event on April 30 will be hosted in Charlotte, NC to deepen opportunities throughout the Carolinas as well as Georgia for women businesses. GWBC's signature, parent-event The Power of Partnering (POP) Marketplace -- will be hosted in August in Atlanta as usual, creating an unprecedented two-day offering during the 15th anniversary year.
- GWBC signed major Agreements with Region IV, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in the Carolinas and Georgia to create a more robust pipeline of opportunities throughout the southeast for women-owned businesses. From early April through May, a mix of GWBC partners, including the SBA, will host a series of events across the Carolinas including the BMW Tier 1 Supplier Diversity Matchmaker Conference 2015 in Greenville, SC and the SONOCO 2015 Supplier Diversity Business Conference, Golf Tournament & Trade-Show in Florence, SC. Visit www.gwbc.biz for details.
- GWBC recently restructured its regional network to increase support and visibility for our women businesses and corporate members. Dedicated staffing and committees for the Carolinas and Georgia are poised to empower and engage women businesses and corporations throughout all of its designated market areas.
- GWBC revitalized and re-launched its Web site -- www.gbwc.biz -- to better facilitate interactivity and showcasing among its visitors and serve as a vital content resource for its constituents.

"We are humbled and honored to have made it to 15 years and pay tribute to those that have contributed to our journey," said Roz Lewis, president of GWBC and also a founder of the organization. "We look forward to guiding and supporting the next generation of women-owned businesses for another 15 years and beyond."

More Celebratory News from GWBC

On the eve of the 15th Anniversary year, Mary Kepler, vice president and chief risk officer for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, was selected as GWBC's new Chair of the Board of the Directors. In addition to traditional Chair roles, Kepler's priorities are to enhance the value that GWBC brings to WBEs, which in turn helps to elevate the value the WBEs bring to Corporations and Government. A Board member since 2009, Kepler is intimately involved with GWBC and understands the unique strengths needed on the Board to support GWBC's president and staff to achieve the goals of the organization.



Kittie Watson, President of Innolect and a GWBC-certified WBE was selected as the region's 2015 Women's Business Enterprise Business Star and will be honored during the annual WBENC Summit & Salute Gala in Baltimore, Maryland this March. Watson was selected because of her demonstrated record of building a vital, sustainable company, her strategic vision, business acumen and sheer talent, which combines to meet her corporate clients' complex needs and propel the economy forward. Led by Watson, Innolect is an innovative consulting firm passionate about growing leaders and building creative, high integrity workplaces.

To get certified and start tapping into opportunities, visit www.gwbc.biz. For media inquiries or more information, contact Nichole Taylor at taylor@taylorcommunicationsgroup.com.

ABOUT THE GREATER WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC.

The Greater Women's Business Council, Inc. (GWBC) is a not-for-profit women's organization that provides nationally-recognized certification through its Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) network as well as innovative programming and value-driven events customized to the unique needs of women business owners (WBEs) in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. GWBC's constituency is comprised of more than 900 certified WBEs, dozens of corporate member partners, government entities and business alliances united to inspire, engage and empower women-owned businesses. A Regional Partner Organization of WBENC, GWBC is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia with a satellite office that services the Carolinas. Learn more and join us at www.gwbc.biz, <https://www.facebook.com/GWBCLive> and <https://twitter.com/GWBCLive>.

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