



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Empire State Development Corporation Partner's with the  
Chamber at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual M/WBE Business-to-Business Exchange.**

**“TURNING PARTNERSHIPS INTO PROFIT”**

White Plains, NY (March 7, 2008) – This year marks the twelfth-year of service to the minorities and women in business for the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties.

This year, the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and presenting partner, Empire State Development Corporation's division of Minority Business, invite you to join us at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Business-to-Business Exchange...“TURNING PARTNERSHIPS INTO PROFIT”. The Business-to-Business Exchange, scheduled to be held March 25–26, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains, New York, is designed to deliver up-to-date information on minority business and direct links between, state agencies, corporate America and businesses from this sector. The Exchange brings these businesses, state agencies and the corporate community together, creating the perfect environment to foster MBE-to-state agencies, MBE-to-corporate or MBE-to-MBE relationships.

The 2008 Exchange will be coupled with the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's History Month Luncheon** and our third **Town Hall Meeting**. The two-day Exchange will begin with the opening reception and Town Hall Meeting, where significant leaders in the world of minority business will discuss next steps for minorities and women.

The 2008 Town Hall Meeting moderator is Mr. Andrew Carr, Executive Director of the Wall Street Project, confirmed panelist include: Mr. Michael Jones-Bey, Executive Director of the ESDC M/WBE program, NYS Senator Andrew Stewart – Cousins and County Legislator Lyndon D. Williams, Esq., the Hon. Clinton I. Young, Mayor Jr. of the city of Mount Vernon, Mr. Michael M. Clay, Upstate Manager of DASNY's M/WBE program and Celeste Morris owner of MorrisAllsop LLP.

Day two of the Exchange will feature a continental breakfast with Westchester County Clerk Tim Itoni as the featured speaker followed by a morning of seminars, a business-to-business boutique reception and luncheon where Mr. Clarence Smith Co-founder of Essence Magazine will deliver the Keynote, and an afternoon at the Interactive Information Center (in the Expo Hall), concluding with a networking reception.

The '08 Salute to women honorees includes: Ms. Georgette H. Geller-Petro, Branch Manager for AXA Advisors; Ms. Brenda Scott, Director for Minority Community Affairs Macys; Ms. Marline Grant, Director for Verizon Engineering; Ms. Ramdai Singh, Regional Manager for Washington Mutual. Ms. Lynda Ireland, President/CEO of NY/NJ Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. will receive the 2008 Madam C.J. Walker award

Invitations for the Exchange are mailed to more than 7,000 African American business and social leaders in New York State. Now is the time for your company to reserve its place and join us, NYS agencies and other corporations, at the B2B Exchange...Where your company, will gain new exposure and loyalty within one of Westchester and Rockland's most dynamic segments of the consumer market.

Sponsors for this year's event include Con Edison. --"We are proud to be a long-time supporter of the African American Chamber of Commerce and the Women's History Month Luncheon and B2B Exchange. Con Edison's Minority and Women-Owned Business Program focuses on reaching out to diverse communities to identify and qualify new vendors and this wonderful event encourages such business opportunities." Additional sponsors include: Empire State Development Corp., Enterprise Rent-A-Car, NY Power Authority, Westchester Business Journal, Marie Elaine, 3D Studios and Technology Users Interface.

To make a reservation for the Exchange and to receive up to the moment conference information go online at [www.aaccnys.org](http://www.aaccnys.org) or call for a brochure at 914-699-4749.