



For Immediate Release

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**AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER HOSTS its
SIXTH ANNUAL BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS EXCHANGE
& CELEBRATION OF WOMEN**

March 15, 2005 - The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. invites the public to attend the sixth annual Business-to-Business Exchange and Women's History Month Luncheon, Thursday, April 7, 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel (formerly the Hilton Tarrytown), Tarrytown, NY. The 2005 event is entitled *STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH IN AN OUTSOURCED ENVIRONMENT*. The day will begin with breakfast followed by seminars, an awards luncheon, afternoon seminars and an evening reception.

The 2005 luncheon keynote speaker and recipient of the Madam C.J. Walker Award is SUSAN L. TAYLOR *EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, ESSENCE MAGAZINE*. Susan L. Taylor is editorial director of *Essence* magazine. She served as editor-in-chief of *Essence* from 1981-2000. Taylor is the driving force behind one of the most celebrated Black-owned-business success stories of the past three decades. She directs all editorial operations of the magazine and writes the popular "In the Spirit" column each month. In addition, Taylor oversees the content of all divisions of the multimedia organization and is currently launching a new magazine for the company. She also works with the chairman to develop new businesses and expand *Essence's* global reach. Westchester's own Kelly Davis, author of "Living with Bliss" in bookstores June 2005, will serve as mistress of ceremony.

Luncheon honorees include: Ms Vedeta Hanley, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Action Program of Rockland County and Ms Ann M. Janiak, Executive Director of the Women's Enterprise Development Center Inc. in Westchester.

The evening reception speaker will be the Hon. Ernest D. Davis MAYOR, CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NY. TOPIC: The city of Mount Vernon's Division of Minority - and Women-owned Business Development (M/WBE) is in the process of developing M/WBE programs that should help the local minority and women business community to access all the services offered by the City of Mount Vernon in addition to the state of NY and federal government.

"The B2B EXCHANGE and *Celebration of Women* is a fundraiser for our young chamber, said Robin Douglas, Chamber President/CEO/Founder, "but it is also an opportunity for our membership, the business and social community to join the Chamber in praising the accomplishments and contributions of women around our nation and local community."

Business development seminar topics include:

- Procurement opportunities for small businesses with city, state, federal agencies and Grown Zero.
- How do I become a valued supplier to the corporate community?
- How can I certify my business?
- Help is on the way..... MTA PREP Course, SBA, MBDA and others.....

All luncheon attendees will receive a one-year paid subscription to Black Enterprise Magazine and are encouraged to bring a laundered item of women's clothing to be donated to a local women's shelter.

The AACCCWR, Inc. was established June 28, 1996 as an independent not-for-profit agency to aid, counsel and protect the interests of African American businesses. The mission is to preserve competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of Westchester and Rockland Counties.

The 2005 Luncheon is sponsored by Silver Sponsors Bank of America, Entergy, Bronze Sponsor Con Edison and Supporting Sponsor NY Power Authority and Contributor Bank of NY.

To join the Chamber or to make reservations to attend the B2B EXCHANGE and *Celebration of Women* call 914-699-4749 or log on to www.AfricanAmericanChamberofCommerceNYS.org were you are now able to pay for events online.

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