

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council to Host 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Expo April 28-29, 2016**

MIAMI, FL— April 26, 2016— The Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC) will host the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Expo, its premier event, from April 28–29 at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. With this year’s theme—***P4: People, Partnerships, Performance and Profit— the Business Expo*** will bring together a unique cross-section of minority entrepreneurs, large corporations and government agencies in a series of workshops and networking events to create business opportunities and discuss industry trends.

“The event is designed to ensure minority businesses at all stages of development are positioned for greater success, and to provide corporations and government agencies with information about supplier diversity,” said Beatrice Louissaint, President and CEO of the FSMSDC.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Expo is an ideal opportunity for minority entrepreneurs to present their products and services to purchasing agents from government agencies and Fortune 500 companies. Exhibitors and sponsors include: The Walt Disney Company, Tyco International, BB&T, Florida Blue, TD Bank, Duke Energy, Jackson Health System, Florida Power & Light Company, JM Family Enterprises, Broward College, Office Depot, Enterprise Florida, CVS Health, Comcast, MasTec, SDI International Corp., Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, AT&T, Baptist Health South Florida and Enterprise Holdings.

Business Expo workshops will focus on Global Supply Chain Trends, Managing and Recruiting Talent, How to Build a Multimillion-Dollar Company, How to Transform Your Company Using Social Media, Doing Business in the Transportation Industry, Global Markets, Purchasing Trends and Next Practices in Minority Supplier Development. As part of the Business Expo, the FSMSDC sponsors an annual youth entrepreneurs workshop—this year expecting participation from more than 100 students from local schools.

Keynote speaker Janice Bryant Howroyd, CEO of ACT-1 Group, will highlight the Business Expo Luncheon. Howroyd owns the largest black-woman-owned company in the US, with sales of \$1.4 billion.

#### **About FSMSDC**

The Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing access and growth for minority businesses in Florida. The organization’s goal is to increase purchasing from minority businesses by government entities and corporations, while increasing the operating capacity of minority businesses through hands-on business assistance, training and access to technology and capital resources. Founded in 1975 in Southern Florida (formerly named the Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council—SFMSDC) and expanded to cover all of Florida in 2016, the FSMSDC is one of 23 regional councils affiliated with the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). The FSMSDC acts as a liaison between corporate America and certified Minority Business Enterprises in the state of Florida.

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