



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council
Honors Corporations and MBEs at its 41st Annual Awards Gala**

Miami, FL - The Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC) held its 41st Annual Awards Gala on Friday, September 30, 2016. **“Celebrating Excellence in Supplier Diversity”** was the theme of the event. The evening recognized the achievements of Florida’s top minority businesses, major corporations and individuals committed to supplier diversity. “The corporations and Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) that were honored are working together to achieve the common goal of creating a vibrant economy in Florida,” said Beatrice Louissaint, President and CEO of the FSMSDC.

“FSMSDC will continue to innovate, collaborate and develop new initiatives that will help realize its vision of a diverse and inclusive business environment where economic success is achieved,” said Erasmo Acosta, Chairman of the FSMSDC Board of Directors.

Winners of the prestigious awards:

Award	Recipient
Local Corporation of the Year	Tampa General Hospital
National Corporation of the Year	Duke Energy
Supplier of the Year Category I	Standing Ovations Catering
Supplier of the Year Category II	Rafael Marrero & Company
Supplier of the Year Category III	Foresight Construction Group & GDKN Corporation
Supplier of the Year Category IV	Pacific Coral Seafood
Doing Well While Doing Good®	Florida Blue Foundation
Advocate of the Year	Felix Bratslavsky, Tampa General Hospital & Linda Porter, Skanska USA
Crystal Award	Dana Hill, Florida Blue
President’s Rising Star Award	ACY Contractors
Honorary Recognition	Frank Fernandez, Baptist Health South Florida

About FSMSDC

FSMSDC is a non-profit organization that is 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 MBEs’ operating capacity through hands-on business assistance, training, and access to technology and capital resources. FSMSDC was founded in 1975 and is one of 24 regional councils affiliated with the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). The Council acts as a liaison between corporate America and Minority Business Enterprises in the state of Florida

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