



**News Release
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Gant
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The Power of Dreams

EVENT SPONSORS



Native American Business Alliance Fund hosts its 9th annual national procurement conference at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and acknowledged leading companies for their leadership.

Detroit, MI (PRWEB) September 28, 2009 The Native American Business Alliance Fund hosted its 9th Annual National Business and Procurement Conference at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. The theme, “Evolve, Prosper and Succeed”, set the tone for the conference and offered new opportunities in doing business outside of the automotive arena. Business Owners were introduced to Tribal Officials and Business Owners looking to do business in Indian Country and MBE’s exploring new opportunities in industries involving “green companies” and “wind energy programs” offered to Tribal communities.

Throughout the conference, MBE’s and Tribally-owned businesses had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Fortune 500 Purchasing Representatives, to network with one another and to hear from Governmental Agencies on procurement opportunities available through the government. Similarly, many First Nation Officials attended the conference and were interested in taking the program information and contact names back to their communities so they could begin to explore any opportunities that they could attract to their community. For instance, Gant shared that “I observed First Nation Leaders looking for a new way to do business and some know what they are looking for in a partnership and they are going after it like Structural Steel Tech. SST is owned and operated by Aamjiwnaang First Nation and they are hoping to introduce their product “my smart scaffolding” to Home Depot and to market their product to small business owners and I believe they will get it done because they have determination and drive.”

With the unique networking opportunities, a trade show filled with dynamic speakers, educational and thought-provoking workshops, and exceptional cultural presentations displayed by the local tribal community of drummers and dancers, the NABA conference takes on an intimate and often wanting more feeling by conference attendees. Excitement filled the air this year as the Keynote Speaker, Nick Lowery, former NFL Hall of Fame Inductee and Founder of Native Vision, spoke of his challenges and overcoming many years of disappointment in his football career to becoming a NFL record holder with Kansas City Chiefs and New York Jets. Lowery said, the challenges were hard to face

and the obstacles were ever tougher but “I wanted it more and as business leaders, your attitude is what determines your drive and what helps to keep you in the game”.

The NABA Annual Conference offers NABA members and non- members the opportunity to network with nationally known companies; it also offers conference attendees the opportunity to conduct business face-to-face with purchasing representatives interested in working with Native American owned businesses or in doing business on Tribal Land. This conference is a premier event that opens many doors of opportunity to not only the many Native American businesses and Tribal communities that will attend, but for MBE’s and Women-owned businesses; it also provides attendees with the chance to display their product or service to others through Resource Room. There were opportunities to learn about Stimulus Projects and funding available through various governmental agencies.

Four NABA awards were bestowed upon individuals and or companies for their advocacy of Indian Issues, Leadership and Commitment to the Native American Business Alliance. The following were award winners: Ford Motor Company, Corporation of the Year, Brenco Industries Services, Native American Business of the Year, mySmartSimulations, New NABA Member of the Year, and Cathy Kutch, Advocate of the Year.

“This wide array of conference events will provide the attendees with valuable knowledge and practical tools that they can then take back to use in their everyday entrepreneurial lives,” said NABA’s National Executive Director, Jackie Gant. Aside from the main event sponsors Honda and Toyota, additional conference sponsors and attendees include The Home Depot, UPS, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Kellogg Company, General Motors Corporation, Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company, Dupont Tyvek, Structural Steel Tech of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Johnson Controls, Inc., Magna International, Chippewa Nation of the Thames, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., Aisin World Corporation of America, The Coca-Cola Company, Brenco Industrial Services, Wells Fargo Advisors, Minority Business Development Agency, Kingfish Worldwide Productions, The Blackfoot Company, Griffin Foods, Dakkota Integrated Systems, and many more.

For more information on the Native American Business Alliance, including how to become a member, please contact the NABA National Office at (248) 988-9344 or go to www.native-american-bus.org.

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