

Native American Business Alliance Fund (NABA) Returns to the Land of Enchantment, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Native American Business Alliance Fund is hosting its 6th Annual National Business Conference focusing on “Gathering to Plan for Our Future” where the workshops are educational and thought provoking, with presenters sharing their knowledge and expertise in Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and an array of purchasing representatives from Fortune 500 Companies interested in Native American Owned Businesses and interested in doing business.

Detroit, MI ([PRWeb](#)) April 7, 2006 -- The Native American Business Alliance Fund (NABA) is hosting its 6th Annual National Business Conference focusing on “Gathering to Plan for Our Future”, held at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa located on the Santa Ana Pueblo Indian Reservation outside Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 23-25, 2006 sponsored by United Parcel Service (UPS, Inc.) Under the brightly lit sky, Retired Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) will serve as the Gala Event Speaker where he is scheduled to share with the audience the perspective of Economic Development within Indian Country during his time the U.S. Government and the future. Similarly, Professor Joseph P. Kalt is the Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy at John F. Kennedy School of Government and is Co-Chair of Harvard University’s Project on American Indian Economic Development will speak on the economic conditions and development within the Indian Reservations of the United States.

“NABA Annual Conferences offer NABA members an opportunity to network with nationally known companies and it offers attendees the opportunity to conduct business face-to-face with purchasing representatives interesting in working with Native American Owned Businesses-this is a premier event that opens the “door of opportunity” for many Native American Businesses and the various conference events provides its attendees with the knowledge and practical tools that are valuable and can be used in their every day life as an entrepreneur” said NABA National Executive Director Jackie Gant, a graduate of Harvard University and an enrolled tribal member of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, Ontario, Canada.

The April 2006 conference opens with a “General” session featuring panelists such as: Cathy Kutch, Director Diversity & Supplier Relations, Kellogg Company; Michelle Johnson, Diversity Supplier Manager, The Home Depot; Native American youth from Wingspan, Inc., Craig Ketchum, President of Red Man Pipe & Supply; and Eric Dobyne, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency. The panelists will share with the audience their continued commitment to do business with Native American Owned Businesses and the benefits of partnering with Native American organizations such as NABA and the tools needed for sustainable into the future. Governmental Agency Representatives from the U.S. General Services Administration, U.S. Small Business Administration, Minority Business Development Agency, Canadian Aboriginal International Business International Trade will also participate in this years conference with the focus of bringing more Native Business across the border and vice versa.

The conference provides a professional development component with workshops geared toward Entrepreneurial and Economic Development topics such as: Finding the Opportunity/Government Funding Opportunities, the Value of Joint Ventures and Partnerships, Economic Development on the Rez and Strategic Selling-Getting Results, not excuses are sure to be thought provoking and stimulating areas of discussion. A special highlight of the conference will feature a “Member-to-Member” one-on-one networking session, bringing together Corporate Purchasing Representatives and Native American Owned Businesses where each has the distinct opportunity to

exchange services/products and needs in a informational gathering session. Another feature of the conference involves a special presentation by James Lowry, Senior Vice President and Director of The Boston Consulting Group where he will discuss his research report The New Agenda for Minority Business Development and share with attendees the need to develop and examine entrepreneurial skills for a sustainable business in order to succeed in the future. In a traditional setting, the conference will feature "Talking Circles," breakout groups that focus on topics ranging from business issues to cultural themes.

The 6th Annual National Business Conference will feature the voice of Star Nayea, a Native American Singer, Song Writer and Grammy Award Winner who will entertain the attendees during its Outdoor Sunset Concert sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation. The conference will come to an end with a Gala Event and Awards Ceremony, sponsored by Toyota Motor Manufacturing, North America, with entertainment provided by talented Native American youth (Jason Lopez, Heather Jiron, D'Yonne Tenorio, and Amber Sanchez) currently attending Santa Fe Residential School, Santa Fe, New Mexico and a special video production will be presented by Spirit Media, Inc.

NABA was founded in 1995 by four Native American Business Owners -- Tom "Running Bear" Smith (Western Cherokee), President of Tom Smith Industries; Lee Pepion (Blackfoot), President of The Blackfoot Company; Lloyd Milby (Cherokee), President of L.W. Milby Exhibit Services; and Ken Barnes (Mohawk), President of Upper Mohawk, Inc. Their goals remains the same -- to provide independently owned and tribal-based Native American businesses in the United States and Canada with the opportunity to develop relationships with purchasing representatives from top and Fortune 500 companies. In turn, NABA also provides corporations with opportunities to understand and enjoy Native American traditions through culturally-enriching conference and networking events. NABA currently has 300 plus members and works from a database filled with 10,000 Native Owned Businesses registered as Suppliers in working with its Corporate Members to assist them in locating potential vendors.

Aside from UPS, Inc., Toyota Motor Manufacturing, North America and DaimlerChrysler Corporation and event sponsors additional Conference Event Sponsors include: The Coca-Cola Company, Ford Motor Company, Delaco Steel Corporation, Visteon Corporation, IBM Corporation Global Services, American Express, General Mills Corporation, Johnson Controls, Inc., P&G, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Honda of North America Manufacturing, Microsoft Corporation, The Home Depot, General Motors Corporation, Compuware, Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Co., LaSalle Bank, Magna International, Kellogg Company, American Indian Report and Minority Business News Magazine. Top Native American Owned Businesses provided conference sponsorships Choctaw-Kaul Distribution Company, Systrand Manufacturing Corporation, Tom Smith Industries, Dakkota Integrated Systems, LLC, and E.L. Hollingsworth & Company.

NABA's Corporate Members, who provide business (procurement) opportunities to Native American businesses, include: American Express, The Coca-Cola Company, Comerica Bank, Corporate Express, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Dakkota Integrated Systems, Delta Airlines, Denny's Restaurant Corporation, Diversity, Inc. Magazine, Durr Industries, Eastman Kodak, Energy East, Federal-Mogul Corporation, First Energy Corporation, Ford Motor Company, General Mills Corporation, General Motors Corporation, Honda of America Manufacturing, IBM, Instream, Kellogg Company, LaSalle Bank, La-Z-Boy Corporation, MacArthur Corporation/Chippewa Capital, LLC, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Microsoft Corporation, Minority Business News Magazine, National City Bank, Proctor & Gamble Company, Systrand Manufacturing Corporation, Takata TK Holding, Target Corporation, The Home Depot, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, UPS, Inc., Visteon Corporation, Wal-Mart, The Walt Disney Company,

Tribal Members who seek business opportunities on their reservations and/or looking to partner with corporations are Caldwell First Nation, Chippewas Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Chippewas of Aamjiwnaang, Chippewas of the Thames, Delaware Nation, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Tribe, Little River Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Muncee-Delaware Nation, Nisga's Lisims Government, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Oneida Nation of New York, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and Walpole Island First Nation.

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