

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



South Carolina Minority Business Enterprise Center
Together, growing South Carolina's minority businesses.

A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM BY THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. OPERATED BY DESA, INC.

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South Carolina Minority Business Enterprise Center Is Recognized For 2009 Performance

COLUMBIA, SC (6/28/10)—The South Carolina Minority Business Enterprise Center (SCMBEC) has recently been recognized with a regional performance award from the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).

The award was given by the MBDA, a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, at this year's national conference. The annual event brings together the nation's directors of all minority development agencies federally funded by Commerce. Every year regional awards are given to Centers with the highest performance.

Performance is based on how effectively the Center has worked with their clients, including client hours, procurement dollars, bonding levels, financing, job creation and increase in sales. Specifically, the SCMBEC facilitated \$14,049,998 of contracts, acquired \$17,930,000 of financing, assisted with generating 216 new jobs and served 57 minority-owned businesses within South Carolina.

Project director Diane Sumpter said, "We're thankful to work with many of the state's minority-owned firms. South Carolina citizens often don't realize that these are the firms who act as one of the driving

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forces of our state's economy. It's our job to make sure that they're properly recognized and participate in business opportunities."

About the SCMBEC

As a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) was created specifically to advance the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in America. Furthermore, the South Carolina Minority Business Enterprise Center (SCMBEC) formed a cooperative agreement with the MBDA, to promote the growth and expansion of South Carolina's minority-owned businesses.

The SCMBEC provides services to increase the exposure and visibility of minority business enterprises, and at the same time, build market presence and stability for these firms. Their consulting services and strategies are designed to increase capital and contracting opportunities for these firms, as well as to help create new jobs in South Carolina's communities.

For complete information on the SCMBEC, visit www.SCMBEC.com.

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