



Fourteen exemplary women business leaders will receive awards for excellence among Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs) given by the **Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)** at its Summit and Salute to Women's Business Enterprises in New Orleans this March.

The following are the 2014 WBENC Women's Business Enterprise Stars, pictured left to right: **Lili Hall**, president and CEO, **KNOCK, Inc.**; **Jacqueline Cleary**, CEO, **Atlas Data Systems, LLC**; **Barbara I. Wichmann**, CEO, **ARTEMIA Communications, Inc.**; **Karen Sutter**, president, **Sutter Design, Inc.**; **Royalyn Reid**, president, **Consumer & Market Insights, LLC**; **Elizabeth Schmidt**, CEO, **Atlas Tool, Inc.**; **Peggy Del Fabbro**, CEO, **M. Davis & Sons, Inc.**; **Judith Anderson**, CEO, **Identity Systems, Inc.**; **Lisa Michele Chretien**, president, **EventMover, Inc.**; **Jennifer Jeansonne**, CEO, **Eagle Consulting, LLC**; **Barbara Levine**, CEO, **Exam Coordinators Network**; **Kim Sherrie Sawyer**, president and general counsel, **The Locator Services Group Ltd.**; **Nancy Balkcom**, president, **MySupplies**; **Jane Henry**, president, **Xcution, Inc.**

The 2014 WBENC WBE Stars are selected by WBENC's 14 regional partner organizations, which process WBENC's certification, and provide skills- and business-building programs in their respective regions.

Diversity Information Resources (DIR) appointed **Kevin J. Price**, director of supplier diversity and performance for **Novant Health**, to its Board of Directors. Price is responsible for diversifying the procurement spend base through the development and implementation of Novant Health's Supplier Diversity and Development initiative.

Working with various lines of business, Price identifies certified and qualified diverse suppliers, ensuring that they are given an opportunity to compete for Novant Health's business. As a result of his efforts, Novant Health has increased its diverse suppliers by 340 percent, utilizing almost 400 diverse suppliers.



Price

Founded in 1968, DIR is a not-for-profit corporation headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. DIR advances supplier diversity initiatives through comprehensive, flexible solutions, superior technology, personal service and the proven expertise to help corporations build the best possible supplier diversity programs.



The **U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)** has announced the 2013 National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Award winners. The winners include 12 organizations, businesses and individuals who have demonstrated leadership and commitment in advancing the minority business community. U.S. Secretary of Commerce **Penny Pritzker** presented the awards during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award was presented to **Marie C. Johns**, founder of **L & L Consulting, LLC**, and former associate administrator, **Small Business Administration**. The Advocate of the Year Award: **Linda B. Oliver**, deputy director, Plans & Policy, Office of Small Business Programs, **U.S. Department of Defense**. The Distinguished Supplier Diversity Award: **Lockheed Martin Corporation** and **The Proctor & Gamble Company**. The Access to Capital Award: **Juan Carlos Diaz**, first vice president of commercial lending at **United Bank of El Paso Del Norte**. The Media Award: **David Candelaria**, vice president and general manager of **Entravision Communications—Univision 26 El Paso**.

The Minority Retail Energy Firm of the Year was presented to **Liberty Power Corporation**. The Minority Manufacturer of the Year was presented to **Bridgewater Interiors** and **Reliance Wire & Cable, LLC**. The Minority Construction Firm of the Year was presented to **Metcon, Inc.** and **Cherokee CRC, LLC**. The Minority Exporter of the Year was presented to **Instant Data Technologies (Indatatech)**.

MBDA is the only Federal agency dedicated to the growth and global competitiveness of U.S. minority-owned businesses.

Pictured left to right are: **Fanny Gong**, **Manhattanville Development, Columbia University**; **Barbara Armand**, CEO, **Armand Corp.**; and **Steven Plate**, director of World Trade Center Construction (WTCC) at the **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)** who presented awards for professional accomplishment to

Clarelle DeGraffe, program manager at WTCC, PANYNJ and **Jill Lerner**, FAIA, principal, **Kohn Pedersen Fox** at the **Professional Women in Construction 33rd Anniversary** and annual Black Tie Holiday Dinner Dance gala in New York City. **Dorothy Wasiak**, vice president of **PCGNY Corp.** and PWC board member, chaired the event.



Pearl Perkins