

1-23-2002

# Rhode Island Minority Enterprise Development Week Strategies for Growth in the American Economy Awards Dinner

Unknown

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/bss>

---

## Recommended Citation

Unknown, "Rhode Island Minority Enterprise Development Week Strategies for Growth in the American Economy Awards Dinner" (2002). *Broad Street Studio*. 17.  
<https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/bss/17>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Youth Program at Digital Commons @ RIC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Broad Street Studio by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RIC. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@ric.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@ric.edu).

# Rhode Island Minority Enterprise Development Week

*Strategies for Growth in the American Economy*



## Awards Dinner

*Co-sponsored by*



**Wednesday, January 23, 2002**

**Rhodes on the Pawtuxet**

*Cranston, Rhode Island*

**Evening Entertainment  
is  
provided by:**

# **AS220's Broad Street Orchestra**

The AS220 Orchestra is comprised of participants and staff of AS220's youth program, The Broad Street Studio.

Led by instructor Nisha Purushotham, students of all levels of ability learn rhythm and tone on the conga drum , and approachable instrument for those new to making music.

As students improve in skill, they may add other instruments or musical abilities to the collective voice of the orchestra.

Enjoy the sounds of Providence's youth, and look for upcoming performances of this group of future virtuosos.

We want to thank Urban Ventures and the Federal Executive Council for helping to arrange for tonight's performance.

In events of this nature, views and opinions that are not necessarily those of the cosponsors may be expressed. SBA's cooperation does not constitute or imply its endorsement of any opinions, products, or services. SBA Auth 02-05-0512459-01. All SBA programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

## **Greeting from SBA District Director Mark S. Hayward**

On behalf of the Rhode Island District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, I welcome you to the Minority Enterprise Development Week Awards Dinner. This annual event pays tribute to the accomplishments and significant contributions that the minority small business community makes to the Rhode Island and national economies.

I offer my sincere congratulations to each award winner. Their innovation in growing their successful enterprises is why we are honoring them tonight. Their leadership and resourcefulness are an inspiration to us all.

It is also a pleasure to congratulate the Rhode Island SBA lenders who are being honored for their level of lending to the minority community. This week long celebration would not be possible without the generosity of the many co-sponsors and financial supporters. Under the stewardship of Charles Newton, this year's Chair of the MED Week Planning Committee, the committee worked tirelessly to make the events successful. The collaboration between the local chambers of commerce, the Federal Executive Council, and this year's co-sponsor, the Rhode Island Small Business Alliance has been remarkable.

SBA's Minority Small Business Person of the Year, Juana Horton, is to be commended not only for her tremendous success, but also for the leadership and diligence that was the driving force that created the Rhode Island Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce. I also commend the Special Achievement Award Winners, Stan Cameron and, Cheryl Watkins Snead, as they too are committed to the success of the minority small business community.

Best wishes for continued economic growth in 2002.

## **Message from the Larry E. Morse, Chair of the Rhode Island Small Business Alliance**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Small Business Alliance (RISBA), I congratulate each of the award winners who will be honored here tonight. It is very rewarding to share in the celebration of your success during Rhode Island Minority Enterprise Development Week. We wish you continued success throughout the new year.

We are pleased and honored to assist the U.S. Small Business Administration through co-sponsorship of this event.

I thank and commend the Med Week Planning Committee for their hard work and truly appreciate the many partnerships that have developed during the planning of this year's event that has made it so successful.

We also appreciate the support given by the chambers of commerce who promoted MED Week and hosted a variety of events around the state, some that will occur over the remainder of the week.

Thank you for joining with us this evening for this very special celebration. The Rhode Island Small Business Alliance looks forward to continuing its ongoing commitment to the small business community.

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their financial and in-kind support to Minority Enterprise Development Week

***Event Supporters***

**AMICA Insurance**

**Citizens Bank**

**Fleet Bank**

**Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation**

**Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation**

***Event Co-Supporters***

**Rhode Island Broadcasters Association**

***Advocates***

**Bank Rhode Island**

**Dimeo Construction Company**

**First International Capital**

**Home Loan & Investment Bank**

**Horton Interpreting Services, Inc.**

**O. Ahlborg & Sons, Inc.**

**Rhode Island Health & Education Building Corp.**

**Rhode Island Small Business Development Center**

**The Washington Trust Company**

***Contributors***

**Mayor John O'Leary—City of Cranston**

**D'Ambra Construction Company**

**Minority Investment Development Corporation**

**Narragansett Electric**

**Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce**

**Ocean State Business Forum**

**Rhode Island Manufacturers Extension Service**

**Sovereign Bank New England**

***Patrons***

**Bank of Newport**

**Banneker Industries, Inc.**

**Enterprise Capital, Inc.**

**First Bank and Trust Company**

**First Trade Union Bank**

***Friends***

**Mayor Scott Avedisian – City of Warwick**

# Program

## Welcome

**Mark S. Hayward**

*District Director*

*U.S. Small Business Administration*

## Remarks

**Larry E. Morse**

*Chair*

*RI Small Business Alliance*

**Charles C. Newton**

*Chair*

*MED Week Planning Committee*

**Jeffrey H. Butland**

*Regional Administrator*

*U.S. Small Business Administration*

## Greetings for the State of Rhode Island

**Honorable Charles Fogarty**

*Lieutenant Governor*

*State of Rhode Island*

## Presentation of Awards

### RIMES

Award for Manufacturing Excellence by a Minority or Woman-owned Business

**Rhode Island Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce**

Rhode Island Hispanic Small Business of the Year

Rhode Island Hispanic Small Business Leader of the Year

**Ocean State Business Forum Award**

Outstanding Business Practitioner

**Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation**

Affirmative Action Awards

**Rhode Island Minority Business Enterprise of the Year Award**

**SBA Lending Awards**

**SBA Special Achievement Awards**

**SBA Minority Small Business Person of the Year**

*Juana I. Horton*

*Horton Interpreting Services, Inc.*

**Closing Remarks**

# RIMES

## Award for Excellence in Manufacturing

**Erica Zap**

*President/CEO*

*Erica Zap Designs*

Jewelry designer Erica Zap has been surrounded by arts and crafts all of her life. Her parents owned an international handcraft shop that sold crafts and art collected from their extensive travels around the world. Erica's early exposure to exotic art and culture has greatly influenced her designs.

After graduating from the State University of New York with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, Erica began designing her own line of jewelry, which is produced in Newport and sold nationally under the name Erica Zap Designs.

Erica's company store in Newport, The Erica Zap Collection, features her jewelry as well as other unique handcrafted items from around the world, and was founded almost 20 years ago. She has designed private label lines for clients such as Ann Taylor Loft, and has been invited to exhibit at a number of higher level, juried craft shows.

## Rhode Island Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce

### Rhode Island Hispanic Small Business of the Year

**Sussy De Leon**

*Broker-Owner*

*RE-MAX New Horizons*

Sussy DeLeon came to this country from Guatemala in 1992. She worked at various jobs including car sales, photography, secretary, and writer for a newspaper.

In 1997 Sussy earned her real estate sales license and began working with RE/MAX New Horizons in Providence. She was one of the few bilingual agents serving the Hispanic community. Ms. DeLeon soon discovered that she had both the personality and skill to succeed as a real estate agent and has earned numerous sales achievement awards and was ranked among the top RE/MAX real estate sales agents in Rhode Island and New England.

Sussy earned her real estate broker license in 2001 and purchased the RE/MAX New Horizons office in Providence. Ms. DeLeon conducts first time home buyers seminars and occasionally writes real estate articles in local newspapers.

# Rhode Island Hispanic Small Business Leader of the Year

**William Sanchez**

*General Manager*

*William's Financial Services, Inc.*

William Sanchez and his family came to the United States from Colombia, South America in 1989 and settled in Central Falls. He is a Certified Public Accountant and licensed life, health, and property and casualty insurance agent in Rhode Island.

Mr. Sanchez founded the Latin American Cultural Development Center, which assists students learn to read and write in their own language in order to better learning, English. He is a member of the Colombia and American Association, and was named Person of the Year by the Colombian American Cultural Society. He is a member of the Governor's Hispanic Affairs Commission.

William is a member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island and the national Association of tax Professionals and the Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce.

## Ocean State Business Forum Outstanding Business Practitioner

**Justin Aina**

*Executive Director*

*Urban Ventures*

Justin Aina was born in Nigeria. He was the founder and president of Tadecc International, and vice president of Abby Construction Company. He is currently the executive director of Urban Ventures in Providence, a small business incubator that is part of the Urban Economic Development agenda for the State of Rhode Island.

Aina is a consultant for the Rhode Island Small Business Development Center. He is an adjunct faculty member of the Providence College School of Continuing Education where he teaches Group Dynamics. Aina was a member of the Johnson & Wales University adjunct faculty at the School of Global Management where he taught courses in Global Entrepreneurship, Managing Change and Innovation, and Export Procedures.

Justin has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and a MBA from Bryant College. He is the co-author of "How to Promote Your Business and Increase Sales," and has conducted workshops and seminars on Project Management, Time Management, and Process Mapping.



# **Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation**

## **Affirmative Action Awards**

### **Stop Wasting Abandoned Property (SWAP)**

Throughout its 25-year history, SWAP has contributed to the revitalization of South Providence through the construction and rehabilitation of hundreds of affordable homes and apartments. Since 1993, SWAP has brought nearly \$13 million in affordable housing investment into South Providence. Through initiatives such as the neighborhood Contractor Mentoring Program and home buyer education classes, SWAP is expanding its services to South Providence.

### **West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation**

The West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation is a private, not-for-profit, community-based organization that promotes the development of a healthy, sustainable community in the West End of Providence through the creation of affordable rental and home ownership opportunities. West Elmwood uses the housing as a catalyst to attract resources into the neighborhood to benefit the diverse people who live, work, and support the community.

## **State of Rhode Island**

### **Rhode Island Minority Business Enterprise of the Year Award**

**D. Joseph Brooks**

*President*

*Essex Newbury North Contracting Corporation*

Mr. Brooks has over 19 years of construction experience as a Project Executive/Project Manager. Prior to founding Essex Newbury North Contracting, Joe was employed by the Gilbane Building Company where he was responsible for coordinating the company's EEO/MBE/WBE program nationally. He was Gilbane's Regional Affirmative Action Manager.

Mr. Brooks attended the University of Rhode Island where he was the captain of the football team in 1981. He was among 30 players named to the URI Team of the Decade. Joe has mentored numerous elementary school and college students and has served on the board of directors for many organizations including the Newport Boys and Girls Club, Newport County YMCA, Dorcas Place Adult Literacy, and the National Association of Minority Contractors.

**SBA Rhode Island District Office  
Lending Awards**

**Lender of the Year**

Citizens Bank

**Gold**

Fleet Bank

**Silver**

Bank Rhode Island

**Bronze**

First Bank and Trust Company

**New Markets Lender of the Year**

Citizens Bank

**SBA Special Achievement Awards**

**Stanley Cameron**

*President, Jain Construction Company*

**Cheryl Watkins Snead**

*President, Banneker Industries, Inc.*

# SBA Minority Small Business Person of the Year

## Juana I. Horton

*President*

*Horton Interpreting Services, Inc.*

Juana Horton established her interpreting service as a home-based business in 1994. Horton Interpreting Services has grown to become the leading interpreting agency in Rhode Island. Her company has offices in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Horton Interpreting Services staffs over 200 professional translators and interpreters that are available 24 hours a day. The company provides high quality services in over 70 languages. Horton Interpreting Services clients include medical and legal transcription services and educational and marketing materials.

Ms. Horton was instrumental in the formation of the Rhode Island Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, and serves as its Executive Director. She is a member of the Rhode Island Attorney General's advisory committee for the Kindling Project, a community outreach program targeting a troubled area of South Providence by providing legal services to help solve criminal, civil, environmental, and domestic problems. Juana serves on the Rhode Island Coalition for Affirmative Action Committee, and is on the board of directors for the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation's Urban Enterprise Equity Fund. She is also a board member of the Greater Providence YMCA.

Juana is a past recipient of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce Small Business Leader of the Year Award, and an award for Special Achievement from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Horton attended Southeastern Massachusetts University and holds a certification in Rhode Island for court interpreting. She is a member of the Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association and the New England Translators Association.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is pleased to honor Juana I. Horton as the Rhode Island Minority Small Business Person of the Year.