

MBEiC

Minority Business Enterprise
Input Committee

Greater New England

MBE Article

Awards Gala Weekend (April 23-24, 2010)

The Awards Gala weekend (April 23-24) is the biggest Awards program the Council has ever had in several respects. First the event is a two day event. Second the event is over a weekend. Thirdly, the event is the first Awards Banquet in Boston of the recently merged Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council. And last but not least, we are pleased to announce that Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be the keynote speaker on Saturday at the Gala. Here is a brief summary of the event:

Friday, April 23, 2010 - Westin Copley Hotel

Friday morning starts off with the Annual Meeting of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council. This meeting commences at 10:00 A.M. The business of this meeting is to report to corporate members, MBEs and other stakeholders the state of the organization and to elect new directors and officers of the organization. This is an informative meeting and all corporate members and MBEs are invited to attend. Only corporate members are eligible to vote during the meeting. The Annual Meeting is a great place for MBEs to meet directors, and for non-director corporate representatives to meet directors and MBEs. This meeting will conclude around 11:30 and will be followed by 30 minutes of networking. We are expecting about 100 attendees at the Annual Meeting.

At noon on Friday, we will begin the "Sports, Media and Minority Entrepreneurship Conference". This event will start with a luncheon and a keynote speaker. We are extremely fortunate to have Ms. Wendy Lewis, Executive Vice President of Major League Baseball as our keynote speaker. Ms. Lewis is one of the highest ranking African American women in professional sports and brings a unique perspective to supplier diversity and sports.

Following the luncheon, we will start with the first of two panels. The first panel will include, Herschel Walker of Herschel Walker Enterprises, Tate George of The George Group, Tim Sayers of Sayers40, and Magic Johnson Enterprises. This session will be moderated by an ESPN on-air personality. The purpose of this first panel is for the panelists to describe their successful transition from professional sports to business and some of the challenges they faced in the process. The athletes will also describe some of the things that professional athletes and others need to do to prepare themselves to be successful entrepreneurs.

The second panel will present the perspective of corporate members who are doing business with MBEs, On this panel we will have senior procurement representatives from Aetna, Walt Disney and others. The purpose of this panel is to hear directly from buyers of goods and services what is required to gain access to a major companies supply chain. The Spotlight Sponsor for Friday's Conference is ESPN.

Saturday, April 24, 2010 - Fairmont Copley Hotel

Saturday evening we will start with a VIP reception at 5:30 P.M. This reception will include speakers, official sponsors and others who want to provide significant financial support for the Council.

At 6:00 P.M. the Main Reception will begin. This is will be a gathering of over 600 business professionals. So bring plenty of business cards and start preparing for your effective use of your time at this reception. On suggestion is that you might invite a potential supplier or a potential customer to meet you for a few minutes at the reception. Over my years of business experience, I have seen more deals done over a drink, a meal or a golf outing than anywhere.

At 7:00 P.M. promptly, the 2010 Awards Gala will begin. We are fortunate to have Governor Deval Patrick in attendance to receive the President's Award. Mayor of Boston Thomas Menino will also be there as well. Governors from all 6 New England states have been invited and both U.S. Senators from Massachusetts have been invited to join us. Remember the Gala on Saturday night is Black-Tie.

Our keynote speaker for the Gala is Earvin "Magic" Johnson, President and CEO of Magic Johnson Enterprises. He has a phenomenal message and story that I am certain will inspire and inform those in attendance.

And the reason for the event is to honor and recognize excellence in minority business development and minority business performance. So come and help us celebrate. It is time to go beyond marking your calendar. It is time to make your reservations.

