



## 2010 Summit & Salute FACT Sheet

**What is WBENC?** The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), founded in 1997, is the nation's leading advocate of women-owned businesses. WBENC successfully positions women-owned businesses as suppliers to America's corporations. Success is achieved as WBENC works with representatives of corporations to encourage the utilization and expansion of supplier and vendor diversity programs, while facilitating business connections. WBENC is also the largest third-party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women in the United States. Learn more at [www.wbenc.org](http://www.wbenc.org).

**What is the Summit & Salute to Women's Business Enterprises?** The Summit & Salute to Women's Business Enterprises is one of the "do not miss" business events of the year, and is a single program with two important goals. First, the Summit brings together America's leading corporations, government agencies, women business owners and strategic partner organizations for a comprehensive two-day program focusing on business forecasts, market trends, best practices, and networking environments conducive to business. Second, the Salute honors WBENC's award-winning Women's Business Enterprise Stars for their achievements and leadership, and also pays tribute to America's Top Corporations for Women's Business Enterprises.

**2010 Summit & Salute to Women's Business Enterprises: *The Opportunity Connection*.** *The Opportunity Connection* theme is based on one of WBENC's three core values: Certification, Opportunity, and Resources. This theme re-emphasizes WBENC's back-to-basics commitment of connecting major corporations with WBEs to identify and negotiate business opportunities. WBENC's 2010 Summit & Salute takes on a new direction with a focus on business forecasts and market trends presented by experts and thought leaders. The Summit & Salute offers excellent learning and networking opportunities in a friendly, unhurried environment featuring keynote speakers, panel discussions, small group discussions, networking receptions, and more.

**Major Sponsors (As of 11/24/09):** Accenture, Raytheon Company, UPS, AT&T, Chevron, Energy Future Holdings, Alcatel-Lucent, Exxon Mobil Corporation, The Act 1 Group, Bank of America, Kraft Foods, PepsiCo, Inc., United Airlines, Inc., Shell Oil Company, Pfizer Inc, Pitney Bowes Inc., Microsoft Corporation, Macy's Inc., A-Plus Meetings and Incentives, Hollister Construction, Universal Personnel, EMCO Technologies, Meadows Office Furniture Co., ASAP, and the Women's Business Enterprise Council PA-DE-sNJ.

**Who can attend? EVERYONE.** More than 800 attendees, including WBENC Corporate Member - senior corporate executives, supplier diversity and procurement decision makers from the Fortune 500; WBENC Certified WBEs, non-certified women and men business owners; Regional Partner Organizations (RPOs); government representatives; and other strategic business partners are invited.

**When and where will WBENC's Summit & Salute be held?** WBENC's 2010 Summit & Salute will be held March 24-25, 2010 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. (*The Gaylord is just 15 minutes from Washington, DC.*)

**What is the history of WBENC's Summit & Salute?** The first Salute to Women's Business Enterprises and the first tribute to America's Top Corporations for Women's Business Enterprises were held in 1998. Each year since its inception, the celebration has been held in the Metro DC area, except for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which was held in Dallas, TX as part of WBENC's Founder's Dinner. In 2009, WBENC hosted its first Summit to create WBENC's Summit & Salute to Women's Business Enterprises. The event is a key fundraiser for WBENC.

**How do I register?** Go to [www.wbenc.org/summit-salute](http://www.wbenc.org/summit-salute) to register today and reserve your hotel room at the WBENC preferred rate. Early bird pricing ends January 31, 2010. You may also sign up as a Summit & Salute sponsor through the website.

**If I still have questions, who do I contact?** Paige Adams, Director of Development, at [padams@wbenc.org](mailto:padams@wbenc.org) or 202.872.5515, x: 8020.