

## **HARRIET MICHEL HONORED AS ONE OF MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

Harriet R. Michel, president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, was honored as one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business, during an awards luncheon sponsored by *Black Enterprise* magazine in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 3. Gayle King, editor-at-large of *O, the Oprah magazine*, served as mistress of ceremonies for the event.

Ms. Michel also was profiled in February's *Black Enterprise* along with Ursula Burns, president, business group operations for Xerox Corporation; Jerri Devard, senior vice president of Verizon Communications; Ann Fudge, chairman and CEO of Young & Rubicam Brands; Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company; Debra Lee, chairman president and CEO of Black Entertainment Television; and 32 other senior managers of multinational corporations.

Executives of Black-owned businesses were also honored including Janice Bryant Howroyd, CEO of Act 1 Group; Mellody Hobson, president of Ariel Capital Management; Cathy Hughes, founder and chairman of Radio One; Linda Johnson Rice, president and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company; Sheila Johnson, CEO of Salamander Hospitality; JoAnn Price, general partner of Fairview Capital Partners; Suzanne Shank, president and CEO of Siebert Brandford Shank & Co.; Gwendolyn Smith Iloani, chairman president and CEO of Smith Whiley & Co.; Carol Williams, president and CEO of Carol H. Williams Advertising; Oprah Winfrey, chairman of Harpo, Inc.; and Deborah Wright, chairman and CEO of Carver Bancorp.

“The powerful women on our list, including cover subjects Jerri Devard, Renetta McCann and Debra L. Lee, clearly demonstrate that American businesses need contributions from a diverse group to remain a vital competitive force in the global economy,” said Earl “Butch” Graves, Jr., president and CEO of *Black Enterprise*.

Ms. Michel has been the president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) for 17 years. NMSDC is a private non-profit organization that expands business opportunities for minority-owned companies. NMSDC encourages mutually beneficial economic links between minority suppliers and the public and private sectors, and helps build a stronger, more equitable society by supporting and promoting minority business development. The NMSDC Network, which includes 39 affiliated regional councils, matches more than 15,000 certified minority businesses (Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American) with its more than 3,500 corporate members that want to purchase their goods and services. In 2004, NMSDC member corporations' purchases from minority-owned businesses were \$87.4 billion.

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Ms. Michel is a member of the board of directors of Triad Hospitals. She previously served on the boards of the African-American Institute, Center for Advanced Purchasing Studies (CAPS), Citizens Committee of New York, Juniata College, The MAXIMA Corporation, New York City Partnership and the TransAfrica Forum. She has been a member of the National Advisory Council for the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Haitian-American Business Council. Ms. Michel is a member of the Advisory Board, Barnard-Columbia Center for Leadership in Urban Public Policy, and the Advisory Board, American Visions Society Online. She was vice chair of the New York City Charter Revision Commission, and has also served on the Governor's Liability Insurance Commission, the Commission of Black New Yorkers, Commission on Early Childhood Education and the City-State Commission on Integrity in Government.

She was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of humane letters in 1990 from Baruch College in New York. Baruch's school of business is the largest in the country. Ms. Michel has lectured at the Harvard Law School, the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, the University of California at Fresno and the University of Florida.

She has received a number of awards and citations, including inaugural Inductee to the Minority Business Hall of Fame and Museum, in 2005.

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