



Department of
Development

Minority Contractors
Business Assistance Program

CINCINNATI B.D.S., INC.
CINCINNATI MINORITY CONTRACTORS BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCBAP CELEBRATES 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MINORITY BUSINESSES

Onnie R. Martin, Executive Director of the **Cincinnati Minority Contractors Business Assistance Program (MCBAP)**, announced that on August 4-5, 2009, the agency celebrated its annual *“A Piece of the Action”* Conference. The celebration was held at the Blue Ash Embassy Suites Hotel. This event was co-sponsored by PNC Bank and the Ohio Department of Development, Minority Business Enterprise Division. Other supporters included DAG Construction, River City Furniture, and World Pac Paper. The opening session featured brief remarks from Rosa Martinez, Program Advisor, New Markets Tax Credit Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

The Minority Contractors Business Assistance Program was the brainchild of the late State Senator, William F. Bowen. During the conference, Onnie Martin gave a brief history of how the program has grown to seven (7) major metropolitan areas in the State since 1977. Martin was the architect of the program. Cincinnati BDS Board Members attending included Julia Montier-Ball, Assistant Director, Career Development, University of Cincinnati, and Sherman B. Bradley, Sr., President of B.A.B.Y. (Build a Better You), Inc.

Some one hundred and fifty (150) business owners and representatives attended the two-day conference. The highlight of the conference was the Awards Luncheon, where **Stephen L. Hightower**, President, **Hightowers Petroleum Co.** received the *“Entrepreneur of the Year”* Award and **Congressman Steve Driehaus**, **Ohio’s First Congressional District**, delivered the Keynote Address. Additional awards were given to **PNC Bank; Western & Southern Financial Group; Ohio Department of Development, Minority Business Enterprise Division.** The Awards Luncheon was attended by, among others, **State Senator Eric Kearney, State Representative Dale Mallory, Philip Shotwell**, Director, Ohio Department of Development-Minority Business Enterprise Division; **Dan Cowan**, Western & Southern Financial Group; and **Ronald Carlson**, Branch Manager, SBA (Small Business Administration).

Local supporters of this year's event also included, Allied Construction Industries; Business Management Services; Cincinnati Public Schools; Ohio Kentucky, Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI); The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber; Central Ohio Transit Authority; Eye 3 Data; The Proctor and Gamble Co.; Price Builders & Developers, Inc.; The University of Cincinnati; Cox Financial Corporation; Strategic Employee Benefit Services and the City of Cincinnati.

The **Cincinnati MCBAP** is a business resource agency providing management and technical assistance to increase business opportunities for minority entrepreneurs. The **MCBAP** provides vital accounting services, administration, business planning and construction assistance to general and subcontractors. Under its current contract, **MCBAP** provides assistance to socially and/or economically disadvantaged groups.

The Cincinnati MCBAP is supported by funds from **THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DIVISION.**

For additional information, please call **(513) 631-7666**, fax **(513) 631-7613**, www.mcbap.biz or E-mail - omartin@mcbap.biz, please include your full address,

Cincinnati MCBAP is located at **3 KOVACH DRIVE, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45215-1000. OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 AM TO 5 PM.**