

The pulse

The Hippest Source for diversity + Business in the Gulf South

Created and Distributed by the Southern Region Minority Development Council, Inc.

VOLUME 268



2023 LA Small Business Award Winners

8(a) Graduate of the Year

Joaneane Smith, Global Commerce & Services, LLC, Harvey

Entrepreneurial Success Award

Oscar G. Chimal, Los Jefes Grill, Metairie

Minority Small Business Champion

Troy and Alfonza Bolden,
Cajun Nation Cajun Seasoning Co., Lafayette

Veteran Small Business Champion

Craig A. Stevens, Genesis 360, LLC, Baton Rouge

Women's Business Champion

Luz Lobos, Synergy Design Group, New Orleans

LED Small and Emerging Business of the Year

Sherilyn Hayward, Leroy's Lipsmack'n Lemonade, Baton Rouge

*LED Outstanding Small and Emerging
Business Development Graduate Award*

Lakeisha Robichaux, Chief of Minds, Baton Rouge

Louisiana Small Business Person of the Year

Karen Williams, NOLA Steele Fabrication and Erection, Harvey

EVENTS

**MONTHLY
MBE OUTREACH**
Led by Director of MBE Services
Mark Samuel



FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 | 11:00AM CST

DOING BUSINESS WITH



entergy

**MAY 15 IN MISSISSIPPI
JUNE 8 IN ARKANSAS**



Presented by



**MAY 11TH, 2023
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

SWING INTO SPRING IS LESS THAN 1 WEEK AWAY!

REGISTER YOUR TEAMS NOW!

YOU'RE INVITED TO



swing into
spring

Presented by

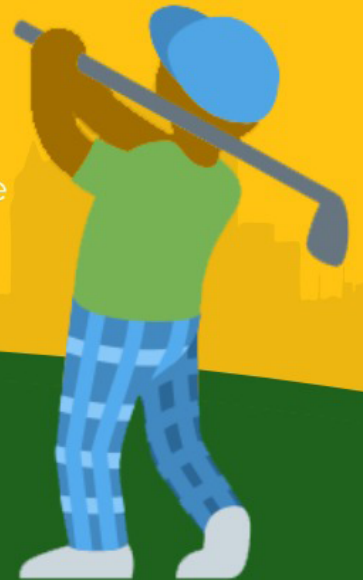


11

MAY

THURSDAY
8:00 AM CST

Audubon Park Golf Course
New Orleans, Louisiana



CLICK TO REGISTER!

SEE YOU
SOON!

SWING INTO SPRING IS
THIS THURSDAY!

REGISTER YOUR TEAMS, SECURE YOUR NETWORKING
LUNCHEON SPOT, GET YOUR SINGLE GOLFER TICKETS

NOW!

Equity Enterprise Update



DISADVANTAGED AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE/SBE) OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

DATE: WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2023

TO REGISTER: norta.com/register

DBE/SBE Opportunity Conference

The RTA has over \$30 million in open contracts for the capital program and we are anticipating spending more on upcoming projects within the next few months. To ensure that disadvantaged and small businesses have access to the economic opportunity these projects afford, the RTA is hosting an Opportunity Conference.

Wednesday, May 10 at 5:30 PM

McDonogh #35 Senior High School Auditorium

4000 Cadillac Street

New Orleans, LA 70122

Learn More and Register



Doing Business With

Entergy's Manager of Supplier Diversity, Dan Boren, will present the May "Doing Business With" session of 2023 in Mississippi. Join us in-person at Entergy's Jackson office and virtually on Zoom to gain tips on how to best align your business to collaborate with Entergy.

Monday, May 15, 2023 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CST



New Insight. New Growth. New Accessibility

The events are Hybrid!

We will be hosting our "Doing Business With" sessions live and you can also join online! **Click to Register for more info!**

Corporate members! Are you interested in engaging with our MBEs? If so, lead one of our "Doing Business With" sessions in our *Small Talk Series* in 2023 and share ideas on how MBEs can do business with your company. Contact Imoore@srmsdc.org to find out how you can lead!

Final Available 2023 Session - September 21



Doing Business With

Entergy's Manager of Supplier Diversity, Dan Boren, will present the June "Doing Business With" session of 2023 in Arkansas. Join us in-person at Entergy's Little Rock office and virtually on Zoom to gain tips on how to best align your business to collaborate with Entergy.

Thursday, June 8, 2023 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CST



New Insight. New Growth. New Accessibility

Did you miss our last **Executive Roundtable?**



EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023
11 AM – 12:00 PM CST**

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Arthur Harrison Toyota Tsusho America | Dr. Larry Crawford Diversity Vuteq | Kirk Lewis Blue Springs Metals | John James James Group International | Keith Porta APC Construction | Lorron James James Group International |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|

Click here to view on YouTube!



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MBES

ALMS TRAVEL LLC - LA

COLLECTION OF COLLECTIONS - LA

JWADE ENTERPRISES, LLC- LA

OWENS SECURITY - LA

EXTREME TRUCKING - LA

ACE PACKAGING - AL

EVALQ - LA

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CLICK THE GRAPHICS TO REGISTER FOR OUR MAY OR JUNE SESSION

**MONTHLY
MBE OUTREACH**
Led by Director of MBE Services
Mark Samuel



THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 | 11:00AM CST



CURRENT BID OPPORTUNITIES

DILLARD UNIVERSITY, HVAC REPLACEMENT, DEADLINE MAY 9, 2023

LIVINGSTON PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT, CONSULTING AND REPRESENTATION SERVICES, DEADLINE MAY 18, 2023



**WANT MORE BIDS?
WE'VE GOT 'EM.
REGISTER TO RECEIVE THE PULSE
BIDS IN YOUR INBOX ON THE 1ST
AND 15TH OF EVERY MONTH!**

We welcome all of your important news and events! To have your info included in The Pulse, email mhairston@SRMSDC.org.
Lead time for our Corporate/MBE members to have their event/RFP listed in The Pulse is 2 weeks prior to the publishing date.
(psst ... we print on Fridays)

SUGGESTED WEEKLY READING

Supercharge your small business with these 15 AI tools cybertalk.org

Small businesses are facing an increasing number of demands, and need innovative solutions to stay competitive in today's fast-paced digital landscape. Technological advancements, like those in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), are providing small businesses with the tools that they need to tackle tough challenges.

Artificial intelligence-based tools and technologies can streamline processes, boost efficiency and improve decision-making. From automating tasks to enhancing customer experiences, AI-based tools have become a game changer for small businesses.

Have a small business? In this article, we'll highlight **15 of the best AI tools** for you. Whether you're looking to optimize your customer support, marketing, tracking, accounting or cyber security, these AI-based solutions can help business owners and operators stay ahead of the curve and accelerate business success.

Why AI-based tools matter:

- Increased efficiency.
- Improved accuracy.
- Better decision-making.
- Cost savings.
- Competitive advantage.

[read the article](#)



POSITIVE PINCH

**"IT CAN BE A GRIND, TRAINING
AND FIGHTING AND WAITING FOR
YOUR CHANCE.**

**BUT WHEN THAT OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTS ITSELF, YOU HAVE
TO BE READY BECAUSE YOU
NEVER KNOW IF OR
WHEN YOU'LL
GET ANOTHER
SHOT."**

- TYRON WOODLEY

WORTH MENTIONING

MAY IS ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH!



Celebrate
**Asian American
& Pacific Islander**
Heritage Month

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. The AAPI umbrella term includes cultures from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of the 2020 U.S. Census, there were about 20.6 million people of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. According to the Pew Research Center, AAPI people are a diverse and growing population that make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population. AAPI Heritage Month 2023 will take place from Monday, May 1 to Wednesday, May 31.

In 1977, New York representative Frank Horton introduced House Joint Resolution 540, which proposed proclaiming the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar joint resolution the same year. When the resolutions did not pass, representative Horton introduced House Joint Resolution 1007 the following year, which requested the president to proclaim a week during the first 10 days of May starting in 1979, including May 7 and 10, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.

After the House and the Senate passed the Resolution, President Jimmy Carter signed it into Public Law 95-419 on October 5, 1978. From 1980 to 1990, each president passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1990, Congress expanded the observance from a week to a month. May was annually designated as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in 1992 under the George H. W. Bush administration with the passing of Public Law 102-540. Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was renamed as AAPI Heritage Month in 2009.



LEARN MORE ABOUT US BY VISITING SRMSDC.ORG