

Regional business conference highlights contracting opportunities, Global markets, green technology and community renewal

GRUNDY, Va. – June 19th 2008 – Contract opportunities, the global marketplace, green technology as well as community renewal and recovery were among the topics discussed at the Regional Business Conference held June 19 at the SVCC's Booth Center on the Appalachian School of Law campus in Grundy.

“The “Embracing New Frontiers” business conference, offered a wealth of information for anyone interested in the new economy and the redevelopment project moving forward in the Grundy area following its many years of flooding history” said Glenda Calver, director of PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center) at the Center for Economic Development at Southwest Virginia Community College.

“We designed the conference as a networking, training and educational experience to engage, enlighten and empower women and businesses in Grundy and the surrounding region,” said Calver. “It’s an encouragement effort for area residents to learn more about the potential of government contracting and become active participants in the future development of the region...” Several pre-conference workshops executed prior to the main event offered marketing, financing, and technology aspects.

Participants in the day-long conference heard from women entrepreneurs who started their own businesses in the region, as well as national and local speakers. Officials from the US Army Corps of Engineers (Huntington) and the Virginia Department of Transportation joined local leaders in outlining progress on the massive road construction and town relocation under way in downtown Grundy.

Keynote luncheon speaker was Anne B. Pope, co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Afternoon speaker and panelist was Dr. Marina Amat, founder and president of AMATEA, LLC, of Leesburg, Virginia, (federal information and communication technology), a 100% woman-owned business, SDB, 8(a) certified by the Small Business Administration and DMBE-certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Benefits of certifications and registrations were discussed by Tammy Proffitt, assistant district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration, (Richmond) and Michael Russell, of the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise (DMBE).

Daphne Hill, small business liaison officer (IT) for Northrop Grumman, (Richmond) outlined ideas for accessing opportunities and seizing new markets while James Tiscornia, General Manager, Southwest Enterprise Solutions Center, (Northrop Grumman) Lebanon, addressed progress on their regional location, operation and partnership with the state of Virginia. Diane M. Thomas, international trade manager for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, discussed global, international and green opportunities.

