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WRMSDC Equips Diverse Businesses to SAIL at Its Business Opportunity Day & Construction Mixer

Las Vegas, NV – On April 11, 2024, the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) set sail with its Business Opportunity Day & Construction Mixer. For the first time, two events were joined into one energizing day providing maximum opportunities for corporations and minority and diverse businesses to connect. This year’s nautical theme was “**SAIL: Charting New Waters in Supplier Diversity**” which presented fresh approaches in **Strategy, Access, Innovation, and Leadership** and opportunity connections with corporations and government entities. Both events were held back-to-back in Las Vegas from 1:00 pm to 5:10 pm PT at the Visions of Greatness Event Center & Patio to allow participants to attend either or both events. Participants included MBEs, diverse suppliers, representatives from large corporations, construction contractors, government entities, and community-based organizations.

Business Opportunity Day cruised with captains and hosts Donna Ruff, President & CEO of WRMSDC, and Kenyatta Lewis, Executive Director of Supplier Inclusion, Sustainable Procurement & Training at MGM Resorts. The event welcomed MGM Resorts as the headline supporter. MGM Resorts has been a steadfast ally and supporter of WRMSDC for over 10 years. The voyage included a captivating SAIL Talk Panel sponsored by Aristocrat Gaming and moderated by Donna Ruff. The discussion featured three prominent business leaders sharing insights on **Strategy, Access, and Innovation**, with Andy Meese, Senior Vice President of Hotel Strategy at MGM Resorts; Nic Steele, Executive Director at ACCESS Capital CDFI; and Chuck Miller, Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering for Aristocrat Gaming, respectively. All panel participants cast wisdom on Leadership. It was full steam ahead with rapid-fire corporate opportunity sharing and certified MBE Christine Maddela, Managing Partner of Storyville RD, presenting the “Science of Storytelling: Communicating Your Capabilities.” Rapid-fire corporate opportunity sharing included: MGM Resorts, City of Las Vegas, Siemens Mobility, PENN Entertainment, Southwest Gas, and Clark County School District. Roundtable Connections allowed guests to go a bit deeper in making connections by engaging with representatives from Aristocrat Gaming, ASM Global, AT&T, Boyd Gaming, City of Las Vegas, Clark County School District, Las Vegas Sands Corporation, MGM Resorts, PENN Entertainment, Siemens Mobility, Silver & Black Hospitality, and Southwest Gas.

Business Opportunity Day was also made possible by supporters: Las Vegas Sands Corporation, Aristocrat Gaming, Boyd Gaming, Caesars Entertainment, Southwest Gas, City of Las Vegas, Siemens Mobility, My Next Career Path Staffing, Sunbay Supplies, Nevada Business Advisors, and VensureHR.

After Business Opportunity Day, participants navigated to the patio for the Construction Mixer which offered MBEs and diverse contractors time to mix and mingle with Corporate. Certified MBE Diversified Protection Corporation took the helm as the headline supporter and seagoers enjoyed coastal cravings with refreshments sponsored by the Las Vegas Raiders. Participants learned about upcoming projects with rapid-fire construction opportunity sharing from: Martin-Harris Construction, McCarthy Building Companies, RTC of Southern Nevada, NV Energy, and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), while Certified MBE NRG Hunters shared their capabilities. Core Construction, Diversified Protection Corporation, Las Vegas Raiders, Martin-Harris Construction, McCarthy Building Companies, NDOT, NV Energy, RTC of Southern Nevada, and Whiting-Turner Contracting hosted meet and greet tables to allow attendees to learn more about how to do business with their companies. In addition to our headline supporter, the success of this event was also made possible by the generosity of the following “crew” of Corporate supporters: McCarthy Building Companies, NDOT, NV Energy, Core Construction, Martin-Harris Construction, and dedicated MBE supporters: NRG Hunters, Commercial Energy Services & Supply (CESS), Allegiant Electric, Las Vegas Lighting, Shaw-Lundquist Construction, B&B Specialties, and Wedlow Maintenance.

“WRMSDC prides itself in crafting novel ways to bring together our corporate members, MBEs, diverse businesses, and community partners to propel our mission of building wealth in communities of color; and, we are honored to have all Business Opportunity Day and Construction Mixer supporters as allies.” shared Donna Ruff, CEO of the WRMSDC.

Both events were free to attend for MBEs and diverse suppliers thanks to the liberal support of our Make a Difference Supporters: AMN Healthcare, Apple, CalTrans, California Water Association, Gilead Sciences, Robert Half, SBM Management, and T-Mobile.

About WRMSDC

The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) supports the growth and business development of minority communities by championing the inclusion of minority-owned businesses in Northern California, Nevada, and Hawai‘i. Please visit us online at www.wrmsdc.org.

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