



National Certification as a Women's Business Enterprise

In addition to your SWAM certification through the Commonwealth of VA, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) provides the most widely recognized and respected certification in the United States for women's business enterprises (WBE). It is different from the SWAM certification because:

1. It is accepted and supported by private sector corporations AND
2. It is accepted nationwide.

Through Women Presidents' Educational Organization (WPEO), a partner organization of WBENC, women business owners can apply for a certification that is accepted by over 800 major corporations. The complete list of companies accepting WBENC certification can be found [here](#).

Women Presidents' Educational Organization –DC (WPEO DC)

WPEO-DC was founded in 2000 for the sole purpose of providing WBENC certification to women business owners in Maryland, DC, and Virginia.

Our mission is **to increase access to business opportunities for WBENC Certified Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs)**. Our programs develop skills and knowledge for WBEs, advocate in the public and private sectors, foster relationships between WBEs, corporations and the government, and provide certification services. The list of WPEO regional corporate sponsors can be found [here](#).

Benefits of Certification:

- **Access** a national database of corporations who have programs designed specifically to source women business owners as vendors WBENC certification.
- **Publicize** your Done Deals with major corporations and WBEs.
- **Build relationships** with WBEs, corporate and government buyers at monthly educational and business development programs.
- **Learn** at top US business schools such as Kellogg, Tuck & Darden through WBENC's Executive Scholarships.
- **Participate** in WPEO Committees including the Certification Committee, Steering Committee and Awards Committee.

Certification Criteria:

1. At least fifty-one percent ownership by a woman or women
2. Proof of effective management and control of the business
3. Documented evidence of contribution of capital and/or expertise
4. The company must operate independently of non-WBENC certified companies
5. U.S. Citizenship or Legal Resident Alien status

WPEO maintains a stringent screening process under the guidelines of WBENC's Standards & Procedures, which ensures that all firms are legitimately owned, managed, and controlled by women. All applicants are encouraged to read WBENC's Standards & Procedures www.wbenc.org. There is a non-refundable \$350 fee for the certification process.

Special Programs:

WBENC National Conference, Baltimore, MD- June 22-24, 2010

On **June 22-24, 2010** WBENC will hold the national Women in Business Conference at the **Baltimore Convention Center**. WIB is the largest conference in the world devoted exclusively to women owned businesses as suppliers to major corporations. Regional women business owners will have the opportunity for national exposure to corporations with local travel time and costs! For more information please see www.wbenc.org.

Done Deals

The Done Deals Challenge was developed to recognize, celebrate and publicize business being conducted between WBEs and WPEO's corporate members and government supporters, and to inspire more of these contracts.

If you are a WBENC certified woman business owner who is also certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia and has won a contract –we will promote your business and provide free publicity. Just fill out the form at the following link:
<http://www.wpeo.us/deals.php>.

Contact: Liza Avruch, Program Manager
(202) 595-2628
Liza@womenpresidentsorg.com
www.wpeo.us

To apply for certification: www.wbenclink.org



WOMEN PRESIDENTS'
Educational Organization
 PROVIDING WBENC CERTIFICATION

Women Presidents' Educational Organization

Application for Women-owned Business (WB) Status
 (By Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise-Certified Firms)

Directions: (1) Please read and sign the affirmation and release below; (2) Go to the WPEO-DC website at www.WPEO-DC.org and complete the application for WB status or call (202) 595-2628; (3) Print, sign, and notarize the application; (4) Submit the application along with the supporting documentation, processing fee, DMBE approval letter, and this form to the address below.

Affirmation. The undersigned Principal Owner(s) hereby swears and affirms, under penalty of perjury and law, that he/she is legally authorized to sign for the Company, and that the Company is a bona fide Women-owned Business certified by the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise.

Now therefore, the Principal Owner(s) affirms the following: I understand that any misrepresentation, fraudulent representation, or failure to notify the Women Presidents' Educational Organization of changes relevant to the following stipulations will be grounds for denial or revocation of certification by the Council, and such actions may be prosecuted under applicable federal and/or state laws and regulations. I agree to notify the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise and the Women Presidents' Educational Organization of any changes in ownership, control, or status as a bona fide Women-owned Business.

RELEASE. I, _____, the undersigned, hereby authorize the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise to electronically (or otherwise) release my application information or portions thereof to the Women Presidents' Educational Organization for certification purposes only.

 Signature Date

 Printed Name/Title

Company's Legal Name: _____

Submit to: Program Manager – Women Presidents' Educational Organization
 1120 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1000
 Washington, DC 20036

 For Office Use Only

Received:
 Processed:

Date Certified:
 WPEO-DC Certification Number: