

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Now through October 23, 2002

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Business Showcase Targets Potential and Existing Small Business Owners

If you are interested in starting a small business or expanding your existing small business and need the right advice from experts, plan to attend the Connecticut Small and Minority Business Showcase 2002 on Wed., Oct. 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Port 'N Starboard on Ocean Beach Park, New London.

The event, hosted by Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz is free to attendees and provides an excellent opportunity to obtain valuable information from lenders and other business resources.

“Business development must be encouraged through events as our Showcase if we are going to sustain long term economic growth in the state,” Bysiewicz said. “We have created a great forum for taking advantage of existing business opportunities, particularly Learning about new financing options and markets.”

Presentations and workshops will also take place throughout the day and will highlight the environment as it relates to business with a presentation, “The Economy of Green.” Workshops will focus on specifics like the “Fundamentals of Starting a Business,” “Business with Government,” and “Opportunities for Youth Entrepreneurs and Career Changers.”

In addition, the Showcase will offer the chance to gain one-stop information and assistance from representatives of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (CSBDC), the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), and the Internal Revenue Service.

State agencies attending include the Departments of Administrative Services, Revenue Services, Labor, Public Works and Transportation. Existing small businesses owners will benefit from these many one-stop resources, as well as from workshops on growing a business and opportunities to network with other business owners. Exhibit space to highlight your business's services and goods is also available for a \$50 charge.

A networking reception, complete with prizes, will conclude the event.

Fleet Bank, Liberty Bank, The CT Department of Transportation, The CT Department of Labor and Quality Office Systems II, sponsor this event.

For further information, and to register an exhibit, contact Harland Henry, Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut, at (860) 509-6258, or email Harland.henry@po.state.ct.us. Information is also on the Secretary of the State's web site at www.sots.state.ct.us.