

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SMALL & MINORITY BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Free expo on starting or expanding a business

The office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz presents its seventh Connecticut Small & Minority Business Showcase on **Saturday, April 12, at J.M. Wright Regional Vocational-Technical School in Stamford**. "Small Business is Big Business" serves as the theme for the series of all-day expos designed to help business owners and others network, learn about financing options, exporting, e-commerce and other opportunities.

"Business development must be encouraged through events such as our Small & Minority Business Showcase as a way to help sustain long term economic growth," said Bysiewicz, the state's chief business registrar. "It is a great forum for taking advantage of existing business opportunities, particularly if you want to learn more about exporting and Internet marketing."

Lending institutions, along with state and federal agencies, will be on hand with information on starting or expanding a business. Over 60 exhibitor booths featuring locally produced goods and services will also be on display. Webster Bank is the lead sponsor of the 2003 Stamford Showcase.

Bysiewicz first launched the Secretary of the State's Small & Minority Business Showcase program at the West Indian American Center in Hartford three years ago. Showcases have since been held in New Haven, Bridgeport, New Britain and New London. A future Showcase and government contract procurement seminar is being planned for August in Hartford.

"The strong interest we have had in our Business Showcases over the past few years shows significant confidence in the future of our economy," Bysiewicz said. "I encourage entrepreneurs to consider attending our Stamford Showcase and take advantage of the many growth opportunities available to them."

For more information on the Small & Minority Business Showcase, or other business development programs sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of the State (www.sots.state.ct.us), call Harland Henry at (860) 509-6258 or email Harland.henry@po.state.ct.us