

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SMALL & MINORITY BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Free expo on starting or expanding a business

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz will host her office's fifth Connecticut Small & Minority Business Showcase on **Thursday, August 29, at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. "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 if we are going to sustain long term economic growth in the state," said Bysiewicz, the state's chief business registrar. "We have created a great forum for taking advantage of existing business opportunities, particularly learning how to grow through 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 50 exhibitor booths featuring locally produced goods and services will also be on display. Webster Bank is the lead sponsor of the 2002 New Britain Business Showcase.

Bysiewicz first launched the Secretary of the State's Small & Minority Business Showcase program at the West Indian American Center in Hartford two years ago. Showcases have since been held in New Haven and Bridgeport, with another being planned for New London later this year.

"The strong interest we have had in our Business Showcases over the past few years says a lot of good things about the future of our economy," Bysiewicz said. "I would strongly encourage entrepreneurs to consider attending our New Britain area 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

