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*From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2006**

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## **CT SHOWCASE TO HOLD CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA TRADE AND TRAVEL SYMPOSIUM**

The Small and Minority Business Development Unit of the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut will be sponsoring a symposium entitled "The Untapped Goldmine-The Power of One."

This event will take place on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Artists Collective located at 1200 Albany Avenue in Hartford, Connecticut. This event will be FREE to the public. Anyone interested in trade, travel, tourism, and commerce in the regions is welcome to attend. Please register at our website [www.ctshowcase.org](http://www.ctshowcase.org).

The program will comprise panel discussions on trade and travel relevant to the business community. Important discussions will follow regarding security in travel, immigration issues, and the importance of collaboration between industries and government. Panelists will also discuss future trends in trading with the region while considering the security aspects and its effects on the supply chain to and from the region. Presenters will include a celebrity (to be named), a Homeland Security official, Department of Commerce official, members of the Trade Industry, members of the Caribbean Tourism Industry, an official from the Department of Transportation, and other government officials. The Chairman, President /CEO of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Roy Hastick, will give an address.

The Caribbean and Latin American regions are rich with culture evidenced by the institution in which the event is being held. A cultural dimension of live performances by local and national artists will enhance the program. The Artists Collective's students and alumni will have a variety of cultural performances. Many of the Collective students are of Caribbean and Latin American heritage. It is therefore most fitting to have their participation.

This symposium is sponsored by the Small and Minority Business Services Unit in the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut. Partners include the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, World Affairs Council, and the City of Hartford. Support for this effort is expected from various levels of the travel and trade industry as well as other industries that have business interests in the region.

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