



PRESS RELEASE

April 12, 2012

Contact

Christine Liwai Garcia
Dir. of Communications
cgarcia@ncmsdc.org
510.686.2555

Three Minority Businesses from Northern California and Hawaii Chosen for Scholarships

Union Bank, Kaiser Permanente, and D.W. Morgan Company, Inc. provide minority firms with business development support

OAKLAND, Calif., April 12 -- The Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council (NCMSDC) announced the winners of three business development scholarships at its 34th Annual Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards Gala on April 6 in San Francisco. Winners were selected from a pool of over 750 certified Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBEs) in Northern California and Hawaii and were judged based on their community and MBE giveback, spirit of excellence and innovation, dynamic expansion with the potential for further growth, powerful leadership within the MBE community, and their history of supporting the Council's activities within their own footprint.

Union Bank and Kaiser Permanente, NCMSDC Corporate Members and Annual Corporate Sponsors, as well as D.W. Morgan Company, Inc., a Corporate Plus MBE, provided the three scholarships, which will enable the recipients to attend the 2012 Management Development Program for Entrepreneurs through the UCLA Anderson School of Management and the 2012 "Minority Businesses and Corporate America: Advancing Minority Suppliers in the Global Supply Chain" Business Expo through the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

Scott A. Vowels, President, NCMSDC, commented, "I am pleased to say that Union Bank, Kaiser Permanente, and D.W. Morgan Company, Inc. have again stepped forward this year to offer much-needed Scholarship Awards to MBEs. All three sponsors have risen up as champions within the Council and generously respond to our call year after year to support our entrepreneurs in their determination to become better and smarter Executives with access to broader business opportunities on a national scale. I salute Union Bank, D.W. Morgan Company, and Kaiser Permanente for offering promising MBEs the chance to advance and realize their potential."

A list of scholarship award winners follows:

American LED and Energy Corporation (Hawaii) – Wailana Kamaau, Chief Executive Officer
\$3,500 Management Development for Entrepreneurs Scholarship provided by **Union Bank**
Award presented by Richard Chacon, Vice President and Supplier Diversity Manager, Union Bank

AV Images, Inc. (California) – Steve Viss, Project Manager
\$2,500 NMSDC Business Opportunity Fair Scholarship Award provided by **Kaiser Permanente**
Award presented by Dr. Sally Saba, Executive Director, National Supplier Diversity, Kaiser Permanente

SearchPros Staffing, LLC (California) – Myla Ramos, Chief Executive Officer
\$3,500 Management Development for Entrepreneurs Scholarship provided by **D.W. Morgan Company**
Award presented by Maria Guerrero, Vice President, Admin & Diversity, D.W. Morgan Company, Inc.

About the Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council:

The Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council (NCMSDC) promotes minority participation in the procurement process to create economic wealth in minority business communities in Northern California, Hawaii, and the nation. Please visit us online at www.ncmsdc.org.

###