



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Lawrence B. Wooten Named President of the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council**

OAKLAND, Calif., May 19 -- The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) has announced the appointment of Lawrence B. Wooten as president and member of the Board of Directors, effective immediately. Wooten formerly worked within Supplier Diversity at Pitney Bowes.

“I look forward to Lawrence’s vision and strategic direction of the Council. His leadership comes at a time of great change within WRMSDC, with our recent territory expansion and restructuring. The Board of Directors and I are confident that Lawrence will build upon the foundation that has been laid and lead us into a strong, successful future,” said Melissa Buss, Vice President and former Interim President of WRMSDC.

“I am honored to have been chosen to lead this organization. As a former Corporate Member and regional board chair, I view the Council as the primary point of reference for minority business development. I commit to positioning WRMSDC as the subject matter expert in MBE growth, sustainability, and development. It has been my experience that regional councils periodically deviate from the mission of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). I take it as a personal challenge to ensure WRMSDC remains focused on the mission in the best interest of the organization, corporate members and MBEs,” said Wooten.

Wooten has over 25 years of executive leadership experience within procurement and supply management, strategic planning, Supplier Diversity, government contracting, and financial management. He has served in executive roles on numerous regional boards, including: Chairman of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council; and Co-Chair of The Conference Board Council on Supplier Diversity. A veteran of the United States Marine Corp, Wooten has built a reputation for strategic leadership, accountability, and transparency.

Former WRMSDC President Scott A. Vowels announced on August 26, 2013 that he would be stepping down after 5 years at the helm to pursue an opportunity with Apple Inc. Melissa Buss, current Vice President, served as Interim President while the Council searched for a permanent replacement, and she will be overseeing a smooth and efficient leadership transition.

**About the Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council:**

The Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council (WRMSDC) promotes minority participation in the procurement process to create economic wealth in minority business communities in Northern California, Nevada, Hawai‘i, and the nation. Please visit us online at [www.wrmsdc.org](http://www.wrmsdc.org).

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