

# Chamber and Mobile MBDA Business Center Host Minority Business Conference



**Michael Baisden** is undeniably one of the most influential and engaging personalities in radio history. His meteoric rise to No. 1 redefined radio with a syndicated show heard in 100 cities by nearly 8 million listeners. As a college drop-out, an ex-Air Force airman, single parent and transit worker from the south side of Chicago, he wanted his life to mean something. That opportunity came when he stepped out in faith to live his dream of becoming a writer. That courageous step resulted in five best-selling books with nearly 2 million in print and two stage plays. He is a renowned radio personality, noted speaker, TV show host, film producer, social activist and philanthropist. He has a mentoring partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and recently launched a national mentoring initiative called "One Dream One Team" to recruit 12,000 male mentors.

Growing Mobile's minority-owned business base is a priority of the Mobile Area Chamber and the Mobile Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center. The Chamber will hold three days of networking and training, Oct. 21-23 culminating with an awards luncheon.

National Minority Enterprise Development Week, which has been proclaimed by each U.S. President every year since 1983, recognizes the outstanding achievements and contributions of minority business owners, and honors corporations that support minority business development.

Kicking off the week is the Chamber's Executive Roundtable on Oct. 21 focusing on business funding, access to capital and programs that assist minority-owned and small businesses with financing. Presenters are BancorpSouth, Wells Fargo Bank and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Another activity is the Reverse Buyers Trade Show on Oct. 22, presented by the Mobile MBDA Business Center. It will offer business owners the opportunity to meet representatives from our region's larger companies and corporations to learn their procurement procedures and purchasing needs.

Renowned radio personality, author, talk show host, speaker and social activist **Michael Baisden** returns to Mobile this year for the conference.

At the Business with Baisden roundtable, Baisden will discuss business development during "Business with Baisden" on Oct. 23 from 8 to 11 a.m.

After Business with Baisden, the week culminates with its annual Minority Business Awards Luncheon featuring the Chamber's prestigious Eagle Awards, and the Minority Business Enterprise Awards.

These awards will be presented to minority business enterprises for their accomplishments in the areas of business growth, financial sustainability, job creation and retention, strategic alliances, market penetration, innovation and community leadership.



The luncheon keynote speaker is **Alejandra Y. Castillo**, national director of the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency in Washington D.C. Castillo is the first Hispanic-American and the second woman to

lead the agency since its creation. Ms. Castillo will discuss the agency's strategic efforts to enhance the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises (MBEs).

## Minority Businesses Honored

The Minority Enterprise Development Awards, presented by the Mobile MBDA Business Center are awarded to minority business enterprises for their accomplishments in the areas of business growth, financial sustainability, job creation and retention, strategic alliances, market penetration and community leadership.

### Texcel – Technology Firm of the Year

Awarded to a minority-owned firm that has achieved outstanding success in developing and

utilizing new and innovative technology that has led to a significant increase in market share, job creation and customer satisfaction.

### WALA-FOX 10 – Limelight Award

Awarded to the media or social media outlet that has provided significant support to the minority business community by consistently and publicly supporting the minority business enterprises (MBE) and communicating their economic impact to the Gulf Coast region, state of Alabama and the nation.

### Honda Manufacturing of Alabama – Director's Award

Awarded to an individual, corporation, organization or government entity that has demonstrated outstanding, consistent support of the Mobile MBDA Business Center and its program objectives.

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# 2014 Eagle Awards

Presented by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce



Pictured, left to right, Robert Bryant, owner CEO; Rosalyn Bryant and Kendrick Bryant

## Leaf and Petal Florist and Gift Shop

Leaf and Petal Florist and Gift Shop offers flowers, plants and gifts for all occasions. Since 1996, Robert and Maxine Bryant have served customers with their commitment to outstanding customer service and by creating unique and artistic

creations with flowers. The family-owned company is active in the community supporting local schools, civic organizations, the American Cancer Society and the National Kidney Foundation.



Pictured, left to right, President/CEO Tyson Lee, Gary Joubert and Jason Hunt

## Ranger Industrial Services

Ranger Industrial Services provides free training and job placement for skilled tradesmen. The business also offers safety training, project management and consulting in the maritime and construction industries. Founded in 2010 by Tyson Lee, the company

has grown exponentially to serve Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, and in the last year has placed more than 70 skilled craftsmen in well-paying jobs. The company is committed to youth development and sponsors several high school sports teams.

## FAST facts

**WHAT:** MINORITY BUSINESS CONFERENCE

**WHEN:** Oct. 21 - Oct. 23

### 21 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

*A monthly forum small business owners and managers.*

**When & Where:** 8 to 9 a.m.

Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Presenters:** BancorpSouth, Wells Fargo, U.S. Small Business Administration

**Topic:** Funding Your Business – Access to Capital

*No charge, but seating is limited. Reservations required.*

*Free parking.*

**Sponsor:**  **BancorpSouth**

### 22 REVERSE BUYERS TRADE SHOW

**When & Where:** 10 a.m.

American Red Cross, 35 N. Sage Ave.

**Cost:** \$25 for Chamber or Mobile MBDA Business Center members

*Reservations required. Free parking.*

### 23 BUSINESS WITH BAISDEN AND MINORITY BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON

#### BUSINESS WITH BAISDEN

**When & Where:** 8 to 11 a.m. – Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 S. Water St.

**Speaker:** Michael Baisden

**Topic:** Lessons Learned for Success in Business and Life

#### MINORITY BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON

**When & Where:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 64 S. Water St.

**Speaker:** Alejandra Y. Castillo Esq., National Director Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce

**Topic:** Strategic Efforts to Enhance Growth and Global Competitiveness of Minority Businesses

**COST:** \$50 member/\$60 non-members; tables (10) \$500 members/\$600 potential members (includes Business with Baisden and Minority Business Awards Luncheon)

*Advance reservations required.*

*Cancellations after Oct. 17 will not be reimbursed.*

**INFO:** For more information and to register for these events go to [www.mobilechamber.com](http://www.mobilechamber.com) or contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)