



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2015 Eagle Award Winners & Mobile MBDA Honorees

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and the Mobile Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), operated by the Chamber, recognized five organizations today (Thursday, Oct. 8) during the Minority Business Conference Awards luncheon at the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center.

The annual event was created to highlight the Chamber's commitment to minority business success and recognize the efforts of local and state companies. Susan L. Taylor, the former chief editor of *Essence* magazine, was the keynote speaker.

The 2015 Eagle Awards were presented by the Mobile Area Chamber to minority-owned businesses that have demonstrated achievement in business areas including maintaining a solid financial base, revenue and/or employee growth, along with evidence of community service contributions or involvement.

Eagle Award: Baheth Research and Development Laboratories works to find practical solutions to complex environmental challenges. Government, industry and commercial clients benefit from the lab's expertise, in areas such as drinking water systems, sanitary sewer overflows and wastewater treatment methods.

In addition, theoretical chemist and founder Dr. Allam Baaheth has managed more than 356 federal projects, conducted extensive research and his work has led to several patents. The company relocated from Louisiana to the University of South Alabama, when first hired for a city of Mobile project in 1999, and has 15 employees.

Eagle Award: New Life Housing works with families and individuals who want to own a home and keep it – offering financial courses and tips on how to repair their credit. This financial literacy helps give clients the confidence they need to make smart monetary decisions in every area of their life.

Founder and CEO, Bernadette Jenkins says she believes the key to a healthy financial future is home ownership, and is often quoted as saying “rent plus rent equals rent.” The three-year-old company has five employees.

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The Mobile Area Chamber also presented its Reverend Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award. In 2014, the award was renamed to honor James' role in championing the Chamber's diversity efforts. He was pastor of Franklin Street Missionary Baptist Church, community leader, teacher, mentor and advocate for Mobile's minority-owned businesses. He died in November 2010.

Reverend Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award

The **Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Unit** provides one-on-one assistance and training to improve a prospective vendor's ability to compete without sacrificing a safe and well-maintained highway system.

ALDOT encourages inclusion in every level of the contracting process by establishing goals and tracking results. The Chamber sees these mile markers as evidence the agency is committed to the success of small, minority and women-owned businesses.

Presented by the **Mobile MBDA**:

Bates Enterprises received the High Performing Minority Business award. This industrial recycling company specializes in laundering personal protective equipment, leading to lower equipment costs for its clients and reduced waste.

Bates Enterprises also has the ability to handle customer inventory tracking and repairs. When items cannot be patched and reused, the remaining components are recycled. Owner Carla Bates in 1995, bought her family's laundry service and expanded its clients to the commercial and industrial markets. The Childersburg, Ala., company has 65 employees.

Dorsey & Dorsey Engineering and the company's CEO Larry Dorsey received the MBDA Director's Award for its support of the center. The Mobile-based firm serves municipal, state and federal clients throughout the Southeast. Its projects range from airfield design to civil and site engineering services to electrical and electronic systems designs.

Started in 1997, the company is a previous Mobile Area Chamber Eagle Award winner and has four employees.

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