



NATIONAL MED WEEK AWARDS PROGRAM

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATION DEADLINE

**JUNE 15, 2023**



# *Celebrating 40 years* NATIONAL MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK



**Donald R. Cravins, Jr.**  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Minority Business Development

I am excited to announce the call for nominations for the 40th Annual National Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week) Awards! The MED Week Awards are the Federal Government's annual opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of minority business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as individuals and organizations dedicated to advancing minority business enterprise. These awards are presented during MED Week—the Federal Government's annual celebration of the minority business community—which is hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).

Despite systemic challenges, minority entrepreneurs find ways to break through in traditional industries, to carve new paths in emerging industries, and to live up to their role as a driving force for the Nation's economy. The MED Week Awards are MBDA's opportunity to shine a spotlight on the accomplishments of these businesses and individual and serve as an inspiration for fellow and future entrepreneurs to look up to in their pursuit of the American dream.

Over the past forty years, the minority business community has grown immeasurably both in size and impact, including MBDA's historic new status as a permanent Federal Agency. The MBDA family is excited to mark the 40th Annual MED Week Awards with a celebration worthy of this momentous occasion! We are now accepting 2023 National MED Week Award nominations, the descriptions of which can be found in this brochure. We are grateful for your support and hope you can join us during this year's MED Week to honor the Nation's outstanding minority business leaders.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald R. Cravins Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Donald R. Cravins Jr.  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Minority Business Development



## Award Categories

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### Minority Firms of the Year

- ◆ Minority Construction Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority Export Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority Emerging Technology and Industries Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority Health Products and Services Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority Marketing and Communications Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority E-Commerce Firm of the Year
- ◆ Minority Veteran-Owned Firm of the Year
- ◆ Robert J. Brown Minority Business Enterprise of the Year

### Champions of Minority Business Development

- ◆ Access to Capital Award
- ◆ Advocate of the Year
- ◆ Distinguished Supplier Diversity Award

### Individual Recognition

- ◆ Abe Venable Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement
- ◆ Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award

# Eligibility and Nominations

## Who Is Eligible For An Award?

The Minority Firms of the Year Awards are open to minority business enterprises.

The Champions of Minority Business Development Awards eligible nominees include, but are not limited, to business owners, business executives, and representatives of local, state and federal governments or nonprofit organizations, universities, colleges, and tribal entities.

The Individual Recognition Awards are open to all qualified.

## Who May Submit Nominations For An Award?

Nominations may be submitted by individuals or organizations in any category applicable and may be submitted for more than one award category. Self-nominations are also permitted.

In addition, nominations may be submitted by MBDA staff or by representatives of MBDA Business Centers.

However, nominations may not be submitted by members of the headquarters review panels or by MBDA Selecting Officials.

# Award Categories and Evaluation Criterion

*Nominations should include each criterion referenced in the applicable award category*

## MINORITY-OWNED FIRMS

### Minority Construction Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm that has achieved outstanding success in private or public construction projects and has exhibited revenue and job growth over a sustained period of time.

- ◆ Describe the size, scale and types of construction projects
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive, or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental or societal contributions

### Minority Export Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm that has achieved outstanding success in domestic and global markets.

- ◆ Describe how the nominee has achieved outstanding success in global and domestic markets
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, or competitive
- ◆ Describe economic impact, environmental, or societal contributions

### Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm that has achieved success in employing new and innovative techniques that led to a significant increase in market share, job growth, and customer satisfaction.

- ◆ Describe techniques utilized and the results achieved
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

Minority Emerging  
Technology  
and Industries  
Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm that has achieved outstanding success in high-growth industries through the utilization or the delivery of services based on new technologies.

- ◆ Describe new techniques utilized and the results achieved
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

Minority Health  
Products and Services  
Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm that has improved the quality and delivery of healthcare through innovation.

- ◆ Describe the improvements and/or innovations to the quality and delivery of healthcare
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive, or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

Minority Marketing  
and Communication  
Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm who has achieved notable success in the marketing and communication industry by demonstrating creativity and impact.

- ◆ Describe creative approaches utilized in campaigns and new marketing tools developed
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive, or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

## Minority E-Commerce Firm of the Year

Presented to a minority-owned firm that has achieved outstanding success by harnessing the power of the internet to offer goods and services to other businesses and/or directly to the consumer.

- ◆ Describe the firm's creative approaches to offering and selling goods in the digital space
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive, or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

## Minority Veteran-Owned Firm of the Year

Presented to a veteran-owned minority business enterprise that has achieved success in their industry that has led to a significant increase in job growth and customer satisfaction.

- ◆ Describe techniques utilized and the results achieved
- ◆ Explain revenue growth and number of jobs created/retained over a period of time
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive, or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

## Robert J. Brown Minority Business Enterprise of the Year

Presented to a minority business enterprise that has exceeded industry standards and achieved phenomenal business success leading to significant growth and job creation, while showing a commitment to social responsibility and strong community involvement.

- ◆ Specify length of time in business
- ◆ Explain growth in revenue and number of employees
- ◆ Explain current and past financial performance
- ◆ Describe innovative techniques utilized and the results achieved
- ◆ Specify challenges overcome – Technical, commercial, competitive, or societal
- ◆ Describe economic, environmental, or societal contributions

## CHAMPIONS OF MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Access to Capital Award

Presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the financial community by providing traditional and/or alternative working or investment capital to minority-owned businesses.

- ◆ Documented leadership and advocacy for access to capital
- ◆ Specify dollar value of loans or other financial instruments provided to minority businesses or individuals
- ◆ Highlight unique strategies, tools, and/or approaches to increase money invested in minority business enterprises
- ◆ Describe projects implemented as a result of funding

### Advocate of the Year

Presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated significant accomplishment in advocating minority business enterprise as an economic force in the global economy.

- ◆ Describe accomplishments related to the nominees' advocacy efforts
- ◆ Highlight specific obstacles, challenges, or issues championed by the advocate
- ◆ Specify promotion of MBDA as a significant contributor to the success of MBEs in the global marketplace
- ◆ Explain results of the nominees' advocacy efforts

### Distinguished Supplier Diversity Award

Presented to the organization or individual whose business practices have had a significant impact on the growth and development of minority-owned firms.

- ◆ Specify increased dollar values of purchases from minority business enterprises over the past five (or more) years
- ◆ Explain number and types of companies in the nominee's supply chain
- ◆ Explain number of jobs created
- ◆ Describe innovative strategies or notable improvements to the supplier diversity program

## INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

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The **Abe Venable Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement** celebrates high standards of excellence, dedication, and accomplishment over a sustained period of time. The award is granted to an individual who has played an integral role in the creative, technical or professional progress of minority business development over the course of his/her life.

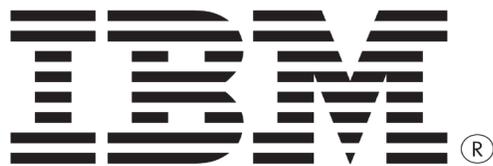
- ◆ Describe the role played by the nominee in the development of minority business enterprise over the past 25 (or more) years
  - ◆ Describe the organization or programmatic improvements the nominee achieved
  - ◆ Explain the nominee's impact on his/her industry
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The **Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award** is inspired by the outstanding leadership of the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Ronald H. Brown. As the first African-American to serve as the Department's Secretary, he was a staunch advocate for diversity and business expansion. The Award recognizes individuals who have achieved significant results by promoting diversity, expanding minority business enterprise and demonstrating exceptional leadership in the public or private sector.

- ◆ Describe the innovations and improvements initiated by the nominee and the results
- ◆ Describe the exceptional and effective leadership demonstrated by the nominee
- ◆ Explain the extent to which the nominee impacted the global economy

*Thank You*

2022 National MED Week Sponsors



# 2022 National MED Week *Recap*





**4 MED Week 2023 Years**  
**MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK**

*Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Approved Number for this Collection is 0640-0025 and it expires on 2/28/2024.*

*The information is used by the MBDA to recognize outstanding minority business development activities of national importance and to determine those applicants best meeting the preannounced criteria. No confidentiality for the information submitted is promised or provided except that which is exempt under 5 U.S.C. 522(b)(4) as confidential business information.*

*The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 2 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Minority Business Development Agency, Office of Legislative, Education, and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230 and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.*



Questions? Contact: [MEDWeekAwards@MBDA.gov](mailto:MEDWeekAwards@MBDA.gov)