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Press Release

NAWBO Greater Detroit Announces its 2012 Annual Prestigious Top 10 Michigan Business Women Awards.

Patricia A. Shiu, U.S. Department of Labor's Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs is Keynote Speaker.

TROY, MI. – February 21, 2012: Winning NAWBOs respected top 10 Michigan Business Women of the Year Award is a great honor among peers. The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Greater Detroit celebrates its 18th year by honoring local women business owners. Women, who are pioneers in their field, those who struggled against the odds and even those who are just starting out, make up the elite group of women business owners who topped NAWBOs list of winners.

All the winners elicit a great sense of pride for their substantial impact and significant contributions to the world of business owners. NAWBO will celebrate these achievements at its Annual Awards luncheon on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at the San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, Michigan at 11 a.m.

NAWBO will also honor **Judge Lucille Watts** of Bethune Legal clinic with the **Greater Good Award** for the organization's leadership and activities and actions that have had a lasting impact on the quality of life and business in Detroit, Southeast Michigan and the state of Michigan.

Shining the light on the best in Michigan is easy when you have a group of women as outstanding as this year's winners listed below with the criteria they met to achieve their honor:

Up and Coming Award – honors **Sonali Vijayavargiya, of Augment Ventures**, an emerging and promising woman business owner who has owned her own business for five years or less. **Breakthrough Award** -- commends **Sheri Fricke, Real Estate One**, a woman business owner who has overcome obstacles or removed obstructions for other women in the workplace.

For Release February 21, 2012

Diversity Champion Award – recognizes **Helen Ford, The Auto Club Group**, a woman organization or business that has promoted and facilitated diversity.

Giving Spirit Award – celebrates **Dr. Marisa Ming, Coalition of Asian American Business Organization** for her commitment to bettering the community through volunteerism and/or philanthropy.

Global Business Award – acknowledges **Janny Lu, Ebinger Manufacturing and Jets Glove Manufacturing Company** for doing business across borders.

Pinnacle Award – honors **Minoti Rajput, Secure Planning Strategies**, a woman who has owned one or more businesses for 25 years or more.

Rainmaker Award – recognizes **Traci Adamczyk, Peace of Mind Home Care** for her significant financial growth.

Red-Tape Buster Award – salutes **Amal Berry-Brown of Comerica** for her involvement in government that has consistently demonstrated commitment to helping women business owners.

Warrior Award – honors **Tanya Allen, Forever Fresh**, a woman business owner who has persevered through business loss and currently owns a successful business.

Words of Wisdom Award – applauds, **Barb Duran, Send Out Cards**, for being instrumental in educating and mentoring women toward achieving their careers or dreams of business ownership.

Be sure to join NAWBO Greater Detroit to honor these women of excellence on Thursday, March 29, 2012. For more information on how to obtain tickets to this celebration visit www.NAWBOgdc.org.

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The Greater Detroit Chapter of NAWBO has a membership of the finest women entrepreneurs in the area who share their experience and empower each other through NAWBO membership. Their businesses include emerging entrepreneurs, sole proprietors and longstanding companies with multi-million dollar revenue. NAWBO Greater Detroit is the premier business resource for women business owners in Southeast Michigan.