

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

# News Release

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## For Immediate Release – July 28 Women Business Owners Vital and Growing

HARTFORD – As the nation struggles to improve its economy, women are emerging as a major engine for economic recovery, especially as most job growth is in small, privately-owned businesses. To gain even greater traction in this trend, more than 100 women business owners from across Connecticut gathered Friday, July 24 in New Britain at a conference sponsored by The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). Held at Central Connecticut State University and hosted by the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (SBDC), “Transition Your Business Through Challenge” brought together experts in such critical areas as access to capital, globalization, marketing, transfer of ownership and how to recession-proof a business.

After greetings and introductory remarks from all of Connecticut’s Constitution Officers and House Majority Leader Denise Merrill, the participants broke into groups for workshops from such business experts as: Yvonne Davis, president and CEO of Davis Communications, who gave practical advice about leveraging overseas business; John Lobon, senior vice president of the Connecticut Development Authority, who explained various traditional and alternate routes to building business capital; and Diana Bartolotta of B-Law, LLC and Jane Beddall of Dovetail Resolutions, LLC, who led a workshop on the best ways to structure a business and transition it to a successor.

“For 36 years, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women has worked for the economic growth and security of women” said PCSW Executive Director Teresa C. Younger. “Here in Connecticut, we have about 80,000 women-owned businesses, and women make up about 30 percent of Connecticut’s self-employed workforce. This conference helped these business owners expand their skills, widen their network and prepare for the future, which is especially critical in this economic downturn.”

*About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a of the Connecticut General Statutes to study “all matters concerning women, and in furtherance of that responsibility shall: (a) inform leaders of business, education, State and local governments and the communications media of the nature and scope of the problem of sex discrimination, with a view to enlisting their support in working toward improvement; (b) serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women; (c) promote consideration of qualified women for all levels of government positions; (d) oversee coordination and assess programs and practices in all State agencies as they affect women.”*