



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Mississippi Minority Business Alliance, Inc. (MMBA) Launches First Satellite Location in Downtown Jackson for the Women Business Center of Mississippi (WBCM)**

**Jackson, MS** - The Mississippi Minority Business Alliance, Inc. (MMBA) will launch the first satellite location of the Women Business Center of Mississippi (WBCM) in Downtown Jackson with an Open House. The networking event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2017 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership (201 S. President Street).

“With the expansion of our Downtown location and six additional satellite locations to be added in key areas across the state by the end of the fiscal year, we are positioned to help the fast-growing women-owned businesses effectively compete for lucrative projects,” said Shellie Michael, Chief Executive Officer of MMBA. “Mississippi has 72,300 women-owned businesses. With a satellite office in downtown Jackson and others across the state, we are transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to develop business owners so that they are able to fully capitalize on opportunities to sell their goods and services statewide, nationally, and abroad.”

WBCM serves entrepreneurs who wish to start or expand a business with a special focus on assisting disadvantaged persons and minorities address the challenges associated with entrepreneurship. Services include “one on one” business counseling, establishment of internal operating procedures, workshops, a customized roadmap specific to their business model, business plan development, and assistance in securing financing. It is the only U.S. Small Business Administration-sponsored Center in the state and joins more than 100 Centers across the country.

Janita R. Stewart, SBA Mississippi District Director, stated that “SBA’s funding of the WBCM and its expansion efforts parallel the growth realized in women-owned businesses and women interested in starting a business. We really look forward to seeing more good things happening in our state for this extremely critical segment of the market and this new WBCM satellite location should serve to do just that.”

An American Express Study shows women businesses on average earn lower revenues than the national average even though the numbers of women businesses are growing at a high rate. MMBA fills a void in the state by serving as a principal advocate and hub for development and managing programs that benefit minority and women-owned businesses. The most immediate impact of the WBCM expansion will be a generation of jobs for Mississippians.

To RSVP for the Open House, email [info@wbcmississippi.org](mailto:info@wbcmississippi.org) or call 601-376-9895. For more information about the Women Business Center of Mississippi, visit [www.wbcmississippi.org](http://www.wbcmississippi.org).

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*MMBA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit with a primary mission of enhancing opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses. MMBA’s goal is to create and/or expand mutually beneficial relationships between minority-owned businesses, suppliers and service organizations throughout the state of Mississippi.*