



Contact: Lance Mitchell
(205) 957-9779
(205) 957-2114 Fax
mitchell@mbocalabama.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2008

**SOUTH REGIONS MINORITY BUSINESS COUNCIL HOLDS 25TH ANNIVERSARY
BUSINESS CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE & EXPO AND CRYSTAL AWARDS**
Minority Businesses, Corporations, and Executives honored during Crystal Awards Luncheon;
Record attendance for the Conference and Trade Expo

Montgomery, AL – South Regions Minority Business Council, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2008, held its annual Business Connections Conference Expo and Opportunity Fair on June 4 & 5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in and Conference Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Business Connections is the Council's biggest annual event, with a Kick-off Luncheon, Educational Sessions, Industry Round Table Discussions, the largest Minority Business Trade Expo in the state, as well as a Corporation / Minority Business matchmaker put on by the Alabama MBOC, a non profit center funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency and operated by SRMBC.

This year's Business Connections was well attended and set records for registrations, trade booths, attendees, and participants in the Alabama MBOC Corporation/MBE Matchmaking event. In addition to the educational sessions, trade expo, and matchmaker, the Annual Crystal Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday. Special Guests included former Michigan Basketball Star Jimmy King, Former Dallas Cowboy Leon Lett, Former Tennessee Coach Wade Houston, Keynote Speaker and Author Phil Wilkins, and Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright.

The Crystal Awards Luncheon, honoring excellence in Minority Business as well as Corporations, Procurement Officers and Executives for their commitment to Supplier Diversity, was moved to this year to the final day of Business Connections. A record number of attendees watched as Mistress of Ceremonies Krista Hawkins of Hyundai Motor Manufacturing of Alabama gave out the 2008 Crystal Awards. The winners were:

- **CEO/Executive of the Year: Bill Stevens - Motion Industries Inc.**
- **Crystal Award - Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC**
- **Corporate Buyer of the Year: Kaori Scherer - Toyota Motor Manufacturing**
- **Corporation of the Year: Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC**
- **Advocate of the Year: Judy C. Hardin – Raytheon**
- **MBE Class I: Herb Landrum - Landrum Janitorial Services**
- **MBE Class II: Carla Bates - Bates Enterprises**
- **MBE Class III: Crystal B. Shell - WILL Technology**
- **MBE Class IV: O2 Ideas, Shelley Stewart**
- **Chairman Award: Jane Smith - RecruitSource, Inc.**
- **Chairman Award: Phil Schmidt – United Parcel Service**
- **MBEIC Spirit Award: April Williams - United States Postal Service**
- **MBEIC Spirit Award: Henry Turner - Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC**
- **President Award: Buddy Perez – Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne**
- **President Award: Jerry Derrickson - OmniSource Integrated Supply, LLC**

South Regions Minority Business Council and Alabama MBOC are located at 4715 Alton Court, Birmingham, AL 35210. For Information on certification as a Minority Business Enterprise, contact the SRMBC at (205) 957-1883, or email to info@srmbc.org. Contact the Alabama MBOC at (205) 957-9779, or email to info@mbocalabama.org. You may visit either on the web at www.srmbc.org or www.mbocalabama.org.