



For Immediate Release
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NATIONAL MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HONORS LEADERS IN SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSITY ON MAY 18th

Beatrice Louissaint, President of Florida State MSDC, Among Honorees

At Black-Tie Gala Event at New York Hilton's Grand Ballroom

On Wednesday, May 18th, the **2016 National Minority Supplier Development Council Leadership Awards** recognized the dynamic corporate executives, minority business owners and NMSDC affiliate council presidents for outstanding leadership that has a positive impact on their companies and resonates throughout the NMSDC network. The black-tie gala evening at the New York included dinner and a ceremony to present the honorees.

According to President Joset Wright-Lacy of NMSDC, "Leadership is not easy to define, but it is an essential element in achieving success and inspiring others to maximize their potential. A leader establishes a vision, sets direction and provides the guidance needed to reach a goal. Leadership is about passion in pursuit of that vision, in service of others, not oneself."



The **Vanguard Award** is presented to an NMSDC affiliate council president who has exhibited leadership in driving the value proposition for minority supplier development among corporate and MBE constituents throughout the NMSDC network. The recipient is announced publicly for the first time at the Leadership Awards ceremony. This year's honoree was **Ms. Beatrice Louissaint**, President and CEO of the Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council, who has helped shape state-wide policy for minority business advancement. Ms. Louissaint has received many awards and recognitions for community service, including her recent induction in Miami Dade College's Hall of Fame, being listed as one of The 100 Most Influential Black People and Miami-Dade County's Women's Leadership Award.

NMSDC advances business opportunities for certified minority business enterprises and connects them to corporate members. To meet the growing need for supplier diversity, NMSDC matches more than 12,000 certified minority-owned businesses to a network of more than 1,750 corporate members who wish to purchase their products, services and solutions. NMSDC is proud of its unwavering commitment to advance Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American suppliers in a globalized corporate supply chain.

The Corporate Co-Chair for the 2016 Leadership Awards is Toyota, the MBE Co-Chair is GEP, and the Corporate Plus Co-Chair is World Wide Technology. MetLife is the VIP reception sponsor. Black Enterprise is the media partner for the event.

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