

Make Mine a \$Million Business Competition

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PORTLAND - Oregon women-owned businesses have the opportunity to apply for a substantial prize package of business tools to help their ventures grow. The Make Mine a \$Million Business awards competition is designed to encourage and assist women in growing their business to \$1 million by providing mentoring, financing, business operations and marketing resources.

"Of Oregon's 137,000 women-owned businesses, less than 3% are at \$1 million in revenues. The potential for growth is remarkable. I encourage all women interested in taking their business to the next level to apply to the program." says Senator Ron Wyden.

Senator Wyden joins Washington Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell as well as Montana Senator John Tester as Honorary Hosts of the Make Mine a Million \$ Business program being held in Seattle on June 11. The online application is available at www.makemineamillion.org. The deadline for applications is May 14, 2008.

Make Mine a \$Million Business is a national initiative created to empower 1 million women-owned businesses to reach the \$1 million in revenue by 2010. Launched by Nell Merlino, founder of Count Me In and the "Take Your Daughter to Work Day" campaign, the Make Mine a \$Million program is holding events around the country. These events are designed to recognize and support women business owners.

Make Mine a Million \$ Business award finalists will be selected at the full-day conference set for June 11, 2008 at the Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion in Washington state. Finalists from five Northwest states will have the opportunity to deliver their business pitches to an audience of entrepreneurs, judges and guests. Awardees will receive a robust awards package to support them as they build their businesses to million-dollar enterprises.

The prize package includes:

- OPEN from American Express will offer up to \$50,000 in financing, a financial evaluation and visibility in marketing campaigns.
- Count Me In will provide awardees with community and mentoring from a "dream" team of coaches and business experts from Count Me In.
- Services and consulting from AIG, and its partners, to help work/life balance, crisis management & small business insurance needs.
- Cisco will offer two awardees a Smart Business Communications package valued up to \$20,000.
- FedEx will give discounts on select shipping and office and print services.
- Intuit will provide business and financial management software, training and support.

- Marketing & Publicity for the business.
- Access to numerous local business resources.

At the June 11 conference, attendees will have the opportunity to access inspirational and educational programming. In addition to the business presentations by the finalists, the conference will offer a panel of previous award winners talking about their experience, workshops on business-growth issues, an exhibitor area of Northwest business resources & national sponsors, and keynote speaker Washington state Governor Christine Gregoire.

The early-bird fee is \$55 and online registrations are now being taken at www.makemineamillion.org. Women-owned businesses of all sizes are encouraged to attend.

For more information visit www.makemineamillion.org or contact the local coordinator, Nigel Vanderford at nvanderford@pyramidcommunications.com or at 503-241-2341.

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