

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SMALL & MINORITY BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Learn to start or expand your business

The office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz presents its ninth Connecticut Small & Minority Business Showcase on Thursday, April 8, in Bridgeport at the JP Morgan Chase Building (999 Broad St.). "Exploring New Markets – Planning for Success" serves as the theme for the all-day expo, which is designed to help business owners and others network, learn about financing options, exporting, e-commerce and other development opportunities.

"Business development must be encouraged through events such as our Small & Minority Business Showcases if we are to sustain long term economic growth in our state," said Bysiewicz, whose office registers companies doing business in Connecticut. "It is a great forum for taking advantage of both government and private small business assistance programs, as well as developing new markets through exporting and the Internet."

Lending institutions, along with state and federal agencies, will be on hand with information on starting or expanding a business. In addition, over 80 businesses will be exhibiting their locally produced goods and services. Along with Secretary Bysiewicz, the City of Bridgeport is co-hosting the event. Fleet Bank is the lead corporate sponsor of the 2004 Bridgeport Showcase with the Women's Business Development Center serving as an associate.

Bysiewicz first launched the Secretary of the State's Small & Minority Business Showcase program at the West Indian American Center in Hartford four years ago. Showcases have since been held in New Haven, Bridgeport, New Britain and New London. "The strong interest we have had in our Business Showcases shows that there is significant confidence in the future of Connecticut's economy," Bysiewicz said.

To register or get more information on the Small & Minority Business Showcase and other business development programs sponsored by Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, call Harland Henry at (860) 509-6258 or email Harland.henry@po.state.ct.us, or visit www.sots.state.ct.us