



TOP 100 MBE AWARDS™

HONORING MINORITY AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

June, 2009

Welcome to our newsletter! **The Center for Business Inclusion and Diversity (CBID)** (501(c)(3) pending) is an organization dedicated to promoting and advocating for women and minority owned businesses. CBID is home of Top 100 MBE Awards®, now in its fourth year! Stay tuned for the June 11th launch of **Ask MBE™**, a unique free web-based application which will allow MBEs to ask experts for advice on all their business issues.

The topic for this month and next month's newsletters is regional opportunities. Strategic alliances, an essential tool in your marketing arsenal in the best of times, are more critical now than ever before. This month, we have interviewed the officials responsible for the state MBE programs in Maryland and Virginia. (Next month we will feature Delaware and the District of Columbia.) These articles provide valuable information and insight for MBEs and will help raise your awareness about regional opportunities, and chances to partner with businesses in neighboring states.

Also, nominations for the 2009 Top 100 MBE Awards® closed on May 9th. Nominees should be notified within the next couple of weeks. Applications must be completed by July 31st.

Save the evening of September 19, 2009. Charles "Roc" Dutton will be performing his one-man autobiographical show, *From Jail to Yale* at the Smith Theater at Howard Community College. Proceeds will be used to fund CBID activities and to provide scholarships for HCC students. Ticket information will be available shortly.

I hope you find this newsletter a valuable tool for your business, and we welcome your suggestions for topics for future newsletters.

Sincerely,

Sharon

Sharon R. Pinder
CEO, The Pinder Group: The Center for Business Inclusion and Diversity
Founder: Top 100 MBE Awards®