



Chamber In The News

May 15, 2009

Commerce Happens!



(Clockwise from the left: **U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen**; **Steve Silverman**, Director, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development; **David Dize**, Director, Montgomery County Department of General Services; **Dr. James Whang**, MCCC Board of Directors Chair and Co-founder and Former Chairman, AEPLG; **Dr. Stewart Edelstein**, Vice Chair, MCCC Education and Workforce Preparation Committee and Vice Chancellor, USM Universities at Shady Grove; MCCC President, **Gigi Godwin**)

The May 13th Congressional Procurement Conference was an extraordinary day of commerce and networking for close to 600 attendees. Honorary Chair Congressman Chris Van Hollen opened the ceremony and marked the event as one that strengthens our economy by truly bringing together government procurement opportunities with local businesses. Keynote speakers Jan R. Frye (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs), Casey Coleman and David A. Drabkin (U.S. General Services Administration) gave unique insights into their strategic mission. 30 workshops led by Federal, State, local agencies and the private sector were packed with information and participants; some classrooms were standing room only! When the Expo hall opened at 12:30 with 74 exhibits, everyone enjoyed hours of robust networking. Log on www.mccc.md.com to download workshop presentations and photos in the coming days.

Economic Development and Education and Workforce Preparation Committees Examine Diversity in the Workplace



(From L to R: **Dr. Stewart Edelstein**, Vice Chair, MCCC Education and Workforce Preparation Committee and Vice Chancellor, USM Universities at Shady Grove; **Lourdes Diaz**, Senior Director of Diversity Relations Sodexo; **Chris Carstens**, Employment Manager, Hughes Network Systems; **James Muir III**, Co-Chair, MCCC Education and Workforce Preparation Committee and Assistant Vice President-Administration, Hughes Network Systems; and **Lisa Fadden**, MCCC Vice President, Public Affairs)

At the May 14 meeting of the Economic Development and Education and Workforce Preparation Committees, Lourdes Diaz, Senior Director of Diversity Relations Sodexo and Chris Carstens, Hughes Network Systems spoke about how workplace diversity can not only help a company with staff morale, recruitment and retention, but also improve the bottom line.

Dr. Stewart Edelstein, Vice Chair, MCCC Education and Workforce Preparation Committee opened the meeting by stating that “Being concerned about diversity in the workplace is not only a social imperative but also an economic imperative.” He said that in the 21st century, there will be profound demographic shifts in the U.S. and that in our increasingly global marketplace within “the next 10 years, 2/3 of all new job seekers will be in Asia, more retirees will be over 65 years old per 100 workers, and that as of 2008, the net new entrants into the job market are mostly women.” Studies show that that diversity can enhance innovation and that there is a link between diversity and profitability.

A company that has a strong and active diversity and inclusion program “understands how important human capital is,” said Lourdes Diaz. “It’s more than just slogans. It’s a mindset and commitment that changes the culture of an organization and positively impacts the bottom line.” Sodexo, which began its U.S. diversity program seven years ago, uses a combination of mentoring programs, staff training and evaluation, and work and life balance programs to help instill diversity in the workplace.

Chris Carstens of Hughes Network Systems agreed and expanded on how diversity can have a global impact as well, “Understanding local cultures and speaking the local language can help increase clients and grow profits in other countries. Our workforce is based largely in Montgomery County, but when we send someone to work in another country we select a person who has an understanding of the local culture and language, and provide extensive training on the local customs before they leave.” In addition to mentoring programs, Hughes pairs veteran employees with recent college graduates on projects in order to encourage understanding and diversity in the workplace and get better ideas from their workforce.



50th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL DINNER
Thursday, June 4, 2009

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
5701 Marinelli Road
North Bethesda, MD

Reception
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner & Awards Ceremony
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Business Attire

You are cordially invited to attend The MCCC 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner. Nearly 800 guests comprised of corporate leaders and elected officials will help us celebrate this very special occasion. Please join us as we:

- Welcome our new Chairman of the Board, William Eisig of BDO Seidman, LLP;
- Honor our outgoing Chairman, Dr. James S. Whang;
- Present the Legislator of the Year Award to US Congressman Chris Van Hollen;
- Inaugurate the Visionary Award (**sponsored by HSBC**) - Presented to an individual with the “creativity and perseverance to innovate, who embodies a generosity of spirit and has the passion to envision a place in which future generations can flourish and prosper in Montgomery County, Maryland;” and
- Install our Board of Directors for the coming year and thank those who served this past year.

[For More Information, Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities Please Click Here.](#)



Smokey Glen Farm



Barbequers, Inc.

CHAMBER AFTER HOURS

Eat + Drink + Network!

Join the MCCC for this special event that takes place directly following the MCCC Board of Directors Meeting at Smokey Glen Farm.

Wednesday, May 27
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Cost: Free to members, \$40 to non-members (non-refundable)

Pre-registration is required! Please register by May 25th.

Contact: Linda Ekizian, 301-738-0015 Ext 241, Lekizian@mcccmd.com or
[click here to register online](#)



LOCKHEED MARTIN



**LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION
Information Systems & Global Services (IS&GS)
Business Area**

**SUPPLIER INFORMATION SESSION
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at The Universities at Shady Grove**

You are cordially invited to participate in a Lockheed Martin Corporation Supplier Information Session to be held June 9, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at The Universities at Shady Grove. Pre-registration is required and the event is **free.**

Lockheed Martin Corporation's Supplier Information Session are two way forums offering suppliers the opportunity to learn about the Lockheed Martin Corporation Information Systems & Global Services (IS&GS) business area and for the Corporation to learn about potential new suppliers. Note: this information session is not a contracting meeting.

The second half of the Supplier Information Session consists of one-on-one matchmaking time allotments, approximately 10 minutes in duration per meeting, allowing your company to show its strengths to Lockheed Martin personnel.

[Click here to register for the event and fill out the Excel spreadsheet to be considered for a one-on-one matching session.](#)

For more information, please contact Barbara Ashe at 301-738-0015 x215 or email bashe@mcccmd.com.

There Are Many Ways to Get Involved

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports policies that will ensure our community's global economic competitiveness into the future. The policy priorities of the Montgomery County Chamber are set by the decisions of our four major policy committees: Economic Development and Education and Workforce Preparation Committee; Legislative Affairs; Small Business Committee; and Transportation and Land Use.

[Click here for schedule of upcoming committees and get involved today!](#)

Upcoming Events . . .

Register Now:

Wednesday, May 27 - 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. [Chamber After Hours](#) - directly following the MCCC Board of Directors Meeting (Smokey Glen Farm)

Thursday, June 4 - 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. [MCCC 50th Annual Dinner](#) (Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)

G Tuesday, June 9 – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon - [GovConNet Prime Opportunities with Lockheed Martin](#) (The Universities at Shady Grove)

Save the Date:

Tuesday, June 23 - 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. - [New & Prospective Member Orientation](#) (MCCC Board Room)

Monday, July 20 – Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation Golf Tournament (Lakewood Country Club)

G = GovConNet

For more information on these and other Chamber events, visit our Web site at www.montgomerycountychamber.com