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**Microsoft, Inc. Supplier Diversity Director Honored by  
The National Women Business Owners Corporation**

Lake Park, FL (March 9, 2011) – The National Women Business Owners Corporation (NWBOC) named Fernando Hernandez, Supplier Diversity Director at Microsoft, Inc. in Redmond, WA the Supplier Diversity manager of the month for March.

Recognizing the importance of supplier diversity programs to increase business opportunities for Woman Business Enterprises (WBEs), the NWBOC applauds outstanding supplier diversity managers, accepting nominations from its certified WBEs.

Hernandez, is the Supplier Diversity Director at Microsoft, Inc. (<http://www.microsoft.com>) in Redmond, WA. In this capacity, he drives Microsoft's strategies to achieve supplier diversity objectives and is responsible for Microsoft's \$1 billion plus annual Supplier Diversity initiative.

"Building a diverse supplier base is important for Microsoft because we want our suppliers to reflect the diversity of our customers," says Hernandez. "In today's highly competitive market, strong supplier diversity programs provide the company with an important strategic advantage."

Hernandez was nominated by Laurie Simon, Founder and CEO of Umbrella, Inc. and Umbrella Consulting (<http://www.umbrellausa.com/>), a NWBOC certified WBE located in Washington State. In her nomination Simon said, "Fernando Hernandez truly understands the power and commitment that it takes to work with small diverse companies and understands the value of doing so. Fernando is our voice for Women in Business across the nation."

The NWBOC announces supplier diversity winners with a company highlight in the bimonthly supplier diversity edition of the NWBOC e-newsletter. Winners also receive a free six-month *Buyer's Registration* to the NWBOC eProcurement MarketPlace (<https://nwboceconomicengine.com>).

The NWBOC eProcurement MarketPlace is an interactive database that allows buyers to send bid opportunities to women-owned companies or use it as a database. In addition, as vendors, women business owners can do business with one another. All of the tools are easy to use with no special equipment or training required. Buyers can discover new vendors and enhance their WBE outreach, while WBEs increase the ease of sales and grow their companies.

For more information about NWBOC or its WBE certification program, visit [www.nwboc.org](http://www.nwboc.org) or email [janet@nwboceconomicengine.com](mailto:janet@nwboceconomicengine.com).

*The NWBOC was established in 1995 for the purpose of increasing competition for corporate and government contracts through implementation of a pioneering economic development strategy for women business owners. NWBOC is a national 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and is the first third party, national certifier providing WBE Certification.*

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