President Nixon

Pamela Prince-Eason, WBENC

Justin Nelson, NGLCC

Elizabeth Vazquez, WEConnect International

Timeline

1953 President Dwight Eisenhower creates the Small Business Administration

1958 Small Business Act of 1958 requires that all government subcontractors place a "fair portion" of their business with small-business enterprises

1969 President Richard Nixon establishes the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) and the Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise within the Department of Commerce

1971 President Nixon expands the scope of OMBE by authorizing grants to organizations to provide technical and management assistance to MBEs

1972 The National Minority Purchasing Council (precursor to the National Minority Supplier Development Council) is founded

1974 OMBE decentralizes and establishes six regional offices and 13 district offices to enhance outreach

1977 President Jimmy Carter terminates the Advisory Council for Minority Business Enterprise

1979 OMBE is renamed the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

1981 The Minority Business Development Center program is established

1983 President Ronald Reagan gives the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration authority to oversee the establishment, preservation and strengthening of federal MBE programs

1983 President Reagan declares the first week of October as Minority Enterprise Development Week, and MBDA holds the first Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference

1994 The Business Leadership Network is founded

1997 The Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is founded to provide third-party certification of women-owned businesses

1999 MBDA Internet Portal is established to offer online business-development services

2000 WBENC holds its first Women in Business Conference, now known as the Women in Business National Conference and Business Fair

2001 Congress creates the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor

2002 The Business Leadership Network is renamed the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN)

2002 The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) is founded

2004 The NGLCC launches the first (and only) third-party certification program for LGBT-owned businesses

2005 MBDA creates the Office of Native American Entrepreneurship and Trade to help American Indian entrepreneurs and business owners

2008 WBENC launches a Global Business Initiative to mentor international WBEs and to help U.S. WBEs enter global supply chain

2009 WEConnect International is founded to certify WBEs based outside of the U.S. and connect them to corporate buyers

2010 USBLN launches the first (and only) third-party certification program for disability-owned businesses

2011 MBDA launches a redesigned MBDA Business Center program, combining the Minority Business Enterprise Center and the Minority Business Opportunity Center programs

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