

Business

Awards dinner recognizes top minority businesses

Top for-profit minority businesspeople in Southern Maryland were recently honored at the annual Minority Business recognition awards dinner at the Waldorf Jaycees Community Center in Waldorf.

The event was sponsored by the Minority Business Advocacy Council with the Minority Business Alliance of St. Mary's County, the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, the economic development departments of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties, the Small Business Development Center Southern Region and the Embassy Business Complex.

The dinner recognizes excellence in minority businesses in the tri-county region, the contributions of those businesses to the community and their expansion efforts, according to a press release.

The event, in its second year, attracted more than 300 businesspeople, local and state government officials, family members and other supporters.

The diversity of the attendees and the award recipients reflected the efforts of MBAC and the organization's cooperation with the MBA and CBWCC, according to the release.

John Reardon, director of the Charles County Economic

Development Department, laid diversity in business, as well as the community, should be

applauded and continually pursued, according to the release.

Keynote speaker Dr. Davinder K. Anand, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland and director of the Center for Energetic Concepts Development, detailed his journey from his boyhood in India to becoming an intellectual entrepreneur.

"It was nice to see so many people enjoying each other's company as they applauded the accomplishments of the different awardees and when they went up to receive their awards," Mike Moses, MBAC chairman, said in the release. "I felt both energized and humbled."

The Minority Business of the Year awards were presented across five categories: Minority Business of the Year for Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties; Emerging Minority Business; and Heritage Minority Business.

The winners included:

Calvert County Minority Business of the Year, Chesapeake Beach Professional Seminars.

Charles County Minority Business of the Year, VNS Group Inc.

St. Mary's County Minority Business of the Year, Curtis The and Auto Center.

Emerging Minority Business, Home Health Products Express.

Heritage Minority Business, Mike's House of We Barber Shop in Calvert County.

"What an incredibly hard time we had choosing the winners from such talented, capable companies," said Sonya Wade, chair of the awards selection subcommittee. "They're all winners."

Officials at the dinner included last year's keynote speaker, Sharon Pinder, who represented Maryland Gov Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., M. She presented Moses with a letter of appreciation on behalf of the governor for the MBAC's work.

U.S. Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md., 5th) sent congratulations to each of the night's awardees.

MB-C is a cooperative alliance of minority businesses that aims to be an advocate, mentor and resource provider for minority business in the tri-county region. Some of its programs include free professional development training, the Minority Technology Mentoring Program for students in kindergarten through Grade 12, an annual Federal Procurement Fair and various net-working events, meet-and-greet luncheons and dinners.

To learn more about MBAC, go to www.cmbac.org.