

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sky's the Limit for two local Minority Business Owners

Over 300 in attendance to honor Calvert Counties own Michael J. Moore and Sonia Hinds

Stars were the center of attraction for the 2nd Annual Minority Business Recognition Dinner held on March 15, 2006 at the Waldorf Jaycees Building . The red carpet treatment was used for local Minority Business owners Mr. Michael J. Moore, owner of Mike's House of Style in Prince Frederick, who received the Heritage Award and Mrs. Sonia Hinds, owner of Chesapeake Beach Professional Business Seminars (CBPS), who accepted the honor of being voted Calvert County Minority Business of the Year.

The awards dinner was hosted by the Charles County Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC) to honor and recognize minority business owners in the Tri-County region. MBAC was established in 2003 to provide advice and direction to the Minority Business Community. Calvert co-sponsors that participated were the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County, administrators of the 2005-2006 Calvert County Minority Business Directory, and the Calvert County Department of Economic Development. The dinner attracted Calvert County Commissioner Wilson Parran and Sharon Pinder, Maryland State Special Secretary for Minority Affairs. Mrs. Pinder highlighted the continued commitment of the State of Maryland to the success of minority businesses.

Former Calvert Commissioner and business pioneer Michael J. Moore received the Heritage Award which recognized him for being in business for 10 years or more. His entrepreneurial start began in 1978 with Mike's House of Style Barber Shop in Calvert County. Moore used a vacation loan to start his business when he was denied a business loan. That same resolve and decisive business strategy is one of the reasons he is in business today. He would not take no for an answer which led to him being a partner with JEM Construction and various other business opportunities. Moore states, "Education is not enough for our youth in the 21st Century. The spirit of entrepreneurship has to be instilled in our youth in order to adequately support our families, communities, and the world." In attendance were his two daughters Michele and Nichole who follow in their father's footsteps as entrepreneurs, wife Dr. Shelia Moore, and long time friend Ben and Doris Boyd.

Mrs. Sonia Hinds, native of Panama, Central America and owner of CBPS, was awarded the Calvert County Minority Business of the Year Award. Mrs. Hinds recalls her descendents building the Panama Canal in 1914 as she recounts her history. That same drive and proud heritage still remains today as she aims to make CBPS a world renowned institute that certifies health professionals in the field of play therapy. Mental Health Professionals travel from as far away as India for the expertise of Mrs. Hinds. She is a clinical nurse psychotherapist who understands the trauma that our children face today. As one of the leading minorities in this field, she is on a mission to help as many children as she can. Mrs. Hinds has a Masters Degree in mental health nursing, a graduate of Washington School of Psychiatry, and hours of hands on training from St. Elizabeth Hospital. Her husband, Mr. Alberto Hinds, was present to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Davinder K. Anand. He is the Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director for the Center of Energetic Concepts Development at the University of Maryland, College Park. His overall message was to encourage all in attendance that “minority” does not mean defeat. Hard work, perseverance, faith, and family not necessarily in that order are all ingredients that create a foundation which fosters achievement and excellence.

For more information regarding MBAC and services available to businesses please contact www.ccmbac.org or 301-885-1344. To contact the Concerned Black Women of Calvert County regarding its local efforts to assist minority businesses please contact Dawn Tucker, Minority Business Chair at 866-517-0477 and visit the CBW website at www.cbw-cc.org.