

National Black MBA  
Leaders of Tomorrow  
Gala



The Ebony Cactus magazine  
Special Edition  
August 24, 2003  
"Great Things"

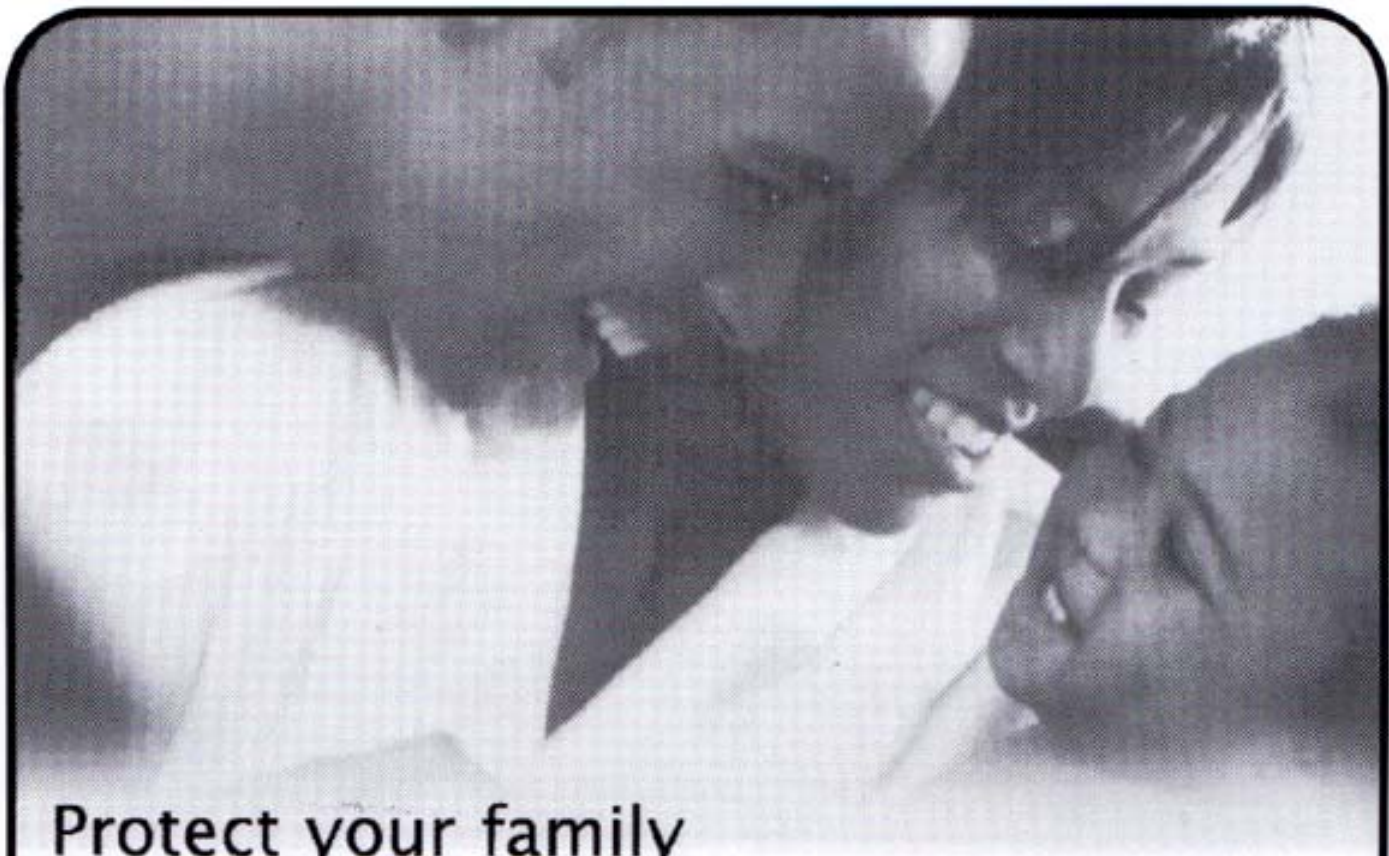
Celebration for Governor Napolitano's  
African American appointments to State Government



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Minority Business Development  
Conference

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# The Ebony Cactus magazine

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Kevin Johnson Keynote Speaker, Kathryn Andrews President

Willie Gary Keynote Speaker

#### Bottom Left: African Americans in Arizona Government Celebration

Hon. Michael Johnson Councilman City of Phx. Hon. Janet Napolitano Governor State of Arizona

#### Bottom Right: MBDA Training

Victor Daniels Office of Congressman J. D. Hayworth, Ron Langston MBDA National Director



# Great Things

Greetings and welcome to this Special Edition of the Ebony Cactus magazine. So, why are things so great? In a nutshell, progress. The Southwestern United States is an amazing place to live. The underlying structure of how things work is very flexible when compared to the bureaucracies of the East. Take for example the California recall. Can you imagine this taking place in New York or any other place in the world?



Beyond the political theater taking place on the coast, the flexibility of the west allows great things to occur. For example, Like the rest of the west, Arizona is a surprising place. Comparatively conservative, one would think it would not be a great place for Minority business. Not true. Though minority business has not achieved parity with the minority population, those who are in business are very innovative, and politically savvy. To provide some clarity lets take a look at some statistics on minority business in Arizona provided by the Minority Business Development Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce:

## Editorials

• 1997 Total Population of Arizona	4,552,207
• 1997 Total Minority Population	329,031
• Total Minority Owned Firms	43,337
• Total Minority Owned Firms Annual Sales	7.1 Billion
• Total African American Owned Firms	3,582
• Total Sales African American Owned Firms	14.5 million
• Total Hispanic Owned Firms	28,894
• Total Sales Hispanic Owned Firms	4.2 Billion
• Total Asian and Pacific Islander owned firms	7,145
• Total Sales Asian and Pacific Islander Owned Firms	2.0 Billion
• Total Native American Owned Firms	5,510
• Total Sales Native American Owned Firms	752.5 million

We prefer to see the glass as half full, so though six years old and not nearly where they should be, these are still impressive stats. The question is, where to go from here? How can we make things better? In this Special Edition, we look in on three activities in the African American and general minority communities that suggest that an answer to that question is just over the horizon. For now Dream Big and On With the Show.

Sincerely, Angela and George Brooks (Publisher and Editor respectively)

U.S Department of Commerce  
Minority  
Business  
Development  
Agency  
Training Conference at Wild Horse Pass

**Mission Statement:** The Minority Business Development Agency is an entrepreneurially focused and innovate organization, committed to minority business enterprise and wealth creation.

Recently the MBDA hosted a training session at the Wild Horse Pass resort on the Gila River indian Community. The training session was attended by a cross section of individuals representing various MBDA centers across the nation, minority contractors and representatives of minority business advocacy organizations including the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce. A variety of workshops were offered to provide information on how to better assist minority businesses, best management practices (BMP) and how to better use the services offices by the MBDA.

Carlos Gusman an attendee from Virginia provided an overview of the importance of this conference: "I am here to learn about some of the programs that we are doing. Especially the new initiatives such as the new Venture Capital programs that we have. I am also very excited about presentations on the SMOBE data for I am convinced that not enough people know about this. The Survey of Minority Owned Business Enterprises is a business census of minorities that comes out every 5 years. Not enough people know about it and not enough people use it. For example, because of the SMOBE data, I know that less than 3% of the money coming into the Chicago area is captured by minority business. Of this, the African American community is less than 1/2 of one percent. We must be focused on the number and make people accountable for those numbers."

The keynote speaker for the opening reception was Ron Langston, the National Director of the MBDA.



MBDA National Director Ron Langston and Harry Garewal President and CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Cody Williams President of the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact the MBDA at: [www.MBDA.gov](http://www.MBDA.gov)

MBDA

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## Celebration of African Americans in State Government

The history of African American participation in Arizona State Government is a checkered one at best. In a state where Blacks make up only 3% of the total population, the opportunities to be elected to office are few. Those who have served the state are notable, including Judge Cecil Patterson, former State Senator Clovis Campbell Sr., former State Senator Sandra Kennedy, State Representative Leah Landrum-Taylor, former State Representative. Hershella Horton and former State Representative Art Hamilton who rose to the position of Minority Leader. Beyond elected offices, the numbers of Blacks working for the state have always been somewhat sparse.

In the fall of 2002, Arizona elected a new governor, Janet Napolitano. She entered office with significant African American support and the pledge that those who work for the state will reflect the state. For the African American community, the keeping of that pledge was celebrated at the Arizona Science Center in downtown Phoenix, Thursday August 21st 2003.

Sponsored by **Arizona Governor Napolitano (center), Phoenix City Councilman Michael Johnson (L) and Arizona State Representative Leah Landrum (R) (see photo above)**, the well attended festivity celebrated the numerous influential appointments made to by the Governor to Arizona boards, commissions and

departments. The editor of The Ebony Cactus (Dr. George B. Brooks, Jr.) was appointed to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors and the publisher (Angela Miller-Brooks) to the state OSHA Board. Some consider the term "honest politician" an oxymoron. However, Governor Napolitano more than kept her word, she exceeded it for African Americans now represent 6% of state government, twice the representative population.



George Dean, Phoenix Police Chief Harold Hurt and George Logan



A full house



A pinnacle event: The  
National Black MBA  
Association's Gala

National Black MBA Association  
Phoenix chapter:  
President: Kathryn Andrews  
Banquet Chair: Daina Hunt  
[www.phoenixchapter.org](http://www.phoenixchapter.org)

Saturday, August 23rd 2003, the Phoenix Chapter National MBA Association, Inc. annual banquet celebrated the accomplishments of local businesses, entrepreneurs and youth participants of its Leaders of Tomorrow program (LOT). With grand pageantry at the Phoenix Ritz Carlton Hotel. Former Phoenix Suns NBA player Kevin Johnson (K.J.) and Willie Gary, one of America's most influential US lawyers of the century, shared the roles of keynote speakers. Byron Garrett the Director of the Governor's Community and Youth Development Division of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families was master of ceremonies.



Key Note Speaker Willie Gary

On leadership, Mr. Johnson said, "I was taught by my grandfather that one of the most important things about leadership is relationships with people. He taught me that if your going to be successful in business, it really comes down to how you treat people in your relationships." Johnson also relayed the life lessons he's learned while employed by Jerry Colangelo of the Phoenix Suns.

"For all of us involved in business, self interest isn't a bad thing. Jerry Colangelo taught me that if you are going to be in business you have to balance self interest with responsibility toward community." On entrepreneurs Johnson said, "If our best talents are going to work for someone else then we're never going to get to the next level."



Keynote Speaker Kevin Johnson

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**National Black MBA Gala**



LOT program students including Bishop Henry Barnwell standing in for his grandson Antonie.

Willie Gary, who has won more than 150 settlements in some of the largest jury awards in US history, gave a rousing speech referencing his take on leadership which was directed toward the LOT participants. Gary said, "We did not get here by accident, but, by our own superior brain power. You may not get all that you pay for, but you'll pay for all that you get- Fredrick Douglas."

Mr. Gary is Chairman and CEO of the Major Broadcasting Cable Network (MBC). Headquartered in Atlanta, MBC is the only African American owned 24-hour cable television channel that's devoted to wholesome family programming. MBC's market is the urban American viewer. "What I'd like to accomplish with MBC, is to build a network where we feel comfortable sitting before a television program knowing that our kids and grand kids won't be exposed to the types of negative television that we've been exposed to over our lifetime on some networks. Through our broadcasts and the many community programs I am a part of, I feel we can help our kids. We've lost so many of them already to drugs, violence and just life. We're trying to change that. I want to use my network to reclaim our young people."

An ingenious businessman, Gary said, "Minority businesses in America are growing. Although it's tough, minorities must not give up. They must find ways to succeed."

**The Leaders of Tomorrow Program and Awards**

The Leaders of Tomorrow Program focus is to provide mentors and resources to high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential, but need additional support. This year's class of future leaders included Ashlee Bradley, Ebone Bradley, Christian Brown, Kaleena Lamb, Michele Coleman, Breon Felix, and Antonie Barnwell. Special honors went to Antonie who suffered a critical injury during the course of the program yet sought to successfully complete it.

Community awards were presented by the Black MBAs to the Able Marketing Group represented by Kevin Solomon and American Express represented by JoEllen Lynn. The Corporate award went to Arizona Public Service represented by Rod Lasley and the Community Service award was presented to the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix.

The Ebony Cactus magazine is proud to have been a Strategic Partner in this event.



APS representative  
Rod Lasely



Clovis Cambell Sr.  
And Jr.

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