

Businesses owned by minorities recognized

BY KATE ROCKWOOD

Medill News Service

Businesses in Schaumburg, Des Plaines and Chicago were awarded Minority Supplier of the Year awards Monday before a Chicago audience of more than 400.

The Chicago Minority Business Development Council honored Haves McNeal, president of Creative Printing Services Inc., Des Plaines; Karen Eng, president of Cybernet System Management Inc., Schaumburg; and Tyrone Brown, president of Information Systems Consultants Inc., Chicago.

The awards dinner kicked off the group's 40th annual Chicago Business Opportunity Fair, a two-day trade show and networking function drawing an estimated 4,000 people, including small business owners and Fortune 500 executives, to Navy Pier. The companies look to establish business relationships with each other.

Des Plaines-based Creative Printing Services was recognized as one of the largest minority-owned commercial print manufacturers in the nation, with revenues exceeding \$25 million and 150 full-time employees. McNeal credited the group with helping his business get off to a smooth start 22 years ago.

"They played a role in developing my business plan ... and I got my certification quickly so that once I bought the company I was ready to rock and roll," McNeal said. He received his minority business certification in 40 days.

Eng's firm, Cybernet System Management in Schaumburg, is an engineering and design consulting business. She became president in 2000, succeeding her father, who founded the firm in 1983. She said her sales "have grown exponentially" in recent years.

The group "opens doors and helps level the playing field for minority entrepreneurs," said John W. Rogers Jr., honorary chairman and keynote speaker of the awards dinner. He's founder and CEO of Ariel Capital Management LLC.

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