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WOMEN PRESIDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION (WPEO) FACT SHEET 2019

The WPEO is a regional affiliate of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the nation's leading advocate of women-owned businesses and third-party certification organization. The WBENC certification is the most widely-recognized and respected third-party certification for women-owned businesses. WBENC is a coalition of corporations, regionally focused women's business organizations and certified women business owners.

MISSION: To increase access to business opportunities for Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) while advocating in the public and private sectors.

- The WPEO issues the nationally-recognized WBENC certification to qualifying women-owned businesses in New York, Northern and Central New Jersey, Southern Connecticut, Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.
- New certifications are based on a review of WBENC standards and a site visit.
- Nearly 800 of the Fortune 1000 Corporations require that a woman-owned business be WBENC certified before providing access to their supplier diversity programs.
- The WPEO is a non-profit IRS Sec. 501 (c)(3) organization.

INTERESTING STATISTICS:

- There are 15,000 WBENC-certified WBEs nationwide.
- The WPEO has certified over 1,700 WBEs in the New York and DC regions, 15% of all WBENC-certified WBEs.
- In 2018, the WPEO received over 2075 applications.

CERTIFICATION CRITERIA:

- At least fifty-one percent ownership by a woman or women.
- Proof of independent and unrestricted female control, management, and operation of the business.
- Documented evidence of female contribution of capital and/or expertise.
- The woman or women must hold the highest defined title in the company's legal document.
- Must operate independently from a Non-WBENC certified company.
- U.S. Citizenship or Legal Resident Alien status of female owners.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION:

- Business profile listing in WBENC national supplier database accessed by WPEO Corporate Members and Certified WBEs.
- Access to business development programs and continuing business education at Harvard, Berkeley, Kellogg and Tuck.
- Access to a directory of corporations
- Use of WBENC seal on marketing materials and woman-owned logo on products. with supplier diversity programs.
- Participate in local and national networking events, matchmaker meetings, and trade shows with other WBEs, and corporate and government buyers.
- Opportunity to become a member of the local forum, which advocates on behalf of WBEs and facilitates corporate business opportunities.
- Opportunity to join WPEO Committees including the Certification Committee, Steering Committee, and Awards Committee.