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State Contracting Opportunities and Small Business Certification Workshop to be Held

PITTSTON, PA, January 27, 2010 – A workshop for small business owners interested in learning how to achieve certification as a minority, women or veteran business owner will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre. Businesses wishing to pursue contracting opportunities with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are invited to attend. This workshop is sponsored by the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) at NEPA Alliance, the University of Scranton SBDC, Wilkes University SBDC and the PA Bureau of Minority & Women Business Opportunities (BMWBO). The workshop will include a continental breakfast. Pre-registration is required and is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Workshop topics will include the importance of Pennsylvania certification, certification requirements and benefits, how to identify state contracting opportunities and how the state purchases goods and services. The workshop will also cover a new certification program for Pennsylvania veteran business owners interested in or intending to pursue American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contracting opportunities.

Curtis Burwell, a Business Enterprise Analyst for the Bureau of Minority & Women Business Opportunities (BMWBO) will present the workshop. After a distinguished military career in the Army, where he served as an equal opportunity representative and a training officer, Burwell completed his BS degree at St. Thomas Aquinas College and his Master of Social Work degree at Temple University. He is involved in the development and presentation of outreach and training programs intended to enhance state contracting opportunities for minority, women and veteran business owners.

BMWBO is part of the PA Department of General Services, the main purchasing branch of state government. Its primary functions are to certify minority-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses and to help small businesses become involved in state contracting.

For more information or to pre-register for this **no cost workshop**, contact Karen Ostroskie or Parc Eckersley at NEPA Alliance PTAC at 570-655-5581 or kostroskie@nepa-alliance.org or beckersley@nepa-alliance.org.

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