



For Immediate Release  
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## NATIONAL MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HONORS LEADERS IN SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSITY ON MAY 18

**Azra Khalfan**, Chief Executive Officer of Signs & Lucite Products, Among  
Honorees at Black-Tie Gala Event at New York Hilton's Grand Ballroom

On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the **2016 National Minority Supplier Development Council Leadership Awards** will recognize the dynamic corporate executives, minority business owners and NMSDC affiliate council presidents for outstanding leadership that has a positive impact on their companies and resonates throughout the NMSDC network. The black-tie gala evening at the New York Hilton (1335 Avenue of the Americas, starting at 6:30 PM) will include dinner and a ceremony to present the honorees, with the festivities wrapping up at 10 PM.

According to President Joset Wright-Lacy of NMSDC, "Leadership is not easy to define, but it is an essential element in achieving success and inspiring others to maximize their potential. A leader establishes a vision, sets direction and provides the guidance needed to reach a goal. Leadership is about passion in pursuit of that vision, in service of others, not oneself."



The MBE **Catalyst Award** is presented to **Ms. Azra Khalfan**, Chief Executive Officer of Signs & Lucite Products, founded by her parents. The award goes to the owner of a minority business enterprise (MBE) who has been actively engaged within the NMSDC network for five to 10 years. The recipient is a change agent who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in guiding their company to success, and shared their knowledge and wisdom with peers as a mentor. "My one word that I have is 'vision,'" according to Ms. Khalfan. "Taking those small steps has taken me farther than I ever imagined."

NMSDC advances business opportunities for certified minority business enterprises and connects them to corporate members. To meet the growing need for supplier diversity, NMSDC matches more than 12,000 certified minority-owned businesses to a network of more than 1,750 corporate members who wish to purchase their products, services and solutions. NMSDC is proud of its unwavering commitment to advance Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American suppliers in a globalized corporate supply chain.

Co-Chairs for the 2016 Leadership Awards are GEP and Toyota and MetLife is the VIP reception sponsor. Black Enterprise is the media partner of the 2016 Leadership Awards.

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