



MIDEAST REGIONAL CHAPTERS OF THE NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION TO HOST FIRST ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND CAREER EXPO

Summit seeks to give black professionals in rust belt cities the mindset, solutions and tools needed to survive and thrive in the shadow of vast industrial shifts; motivational speaker Simon T. Bailey will deliver the keynote address

BUFFALO, N.Y. (July 10, 2008) — The Mideast regional chapters of the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) will host “Catalyst To Change — An Economic Leadership Conference And Career Expo,” in Buffalo, N.Y., July 11–12. The event, which will explore local economic and employment realities and viabilities in conjunction with personal wealth-building objectives, is anchored by three accomplished voices in the business world: Simon T. Bailey, Dennis Kimbro and Brook Stephens.

Lavon Stephens, president of the western New York NBMBA chapter, believes this event is necessitated by the seismic declines in the industrial and manufacturing industries that have greatly affected the Mideast region. “The chapters that are banding together for this event, we are largely rust belt cities that are trying to survive — the declines in industrial activities have changed the face of our job market and affected every other face of our economic opportunity,” he says. “Our primary concern is how we position ourselves to attract business and industry, and also, how we can start embracing entrepreneurship to spark enterprise in our communities and grow incomes.”

Dennis Kimbro, Ph.D. — an insightful writer, lecturer and researcher who has authored four books, including “Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice” and “What Makes the Great Great” — will open the conference programming. “Catalyst of Brilliance” **Simon T. Bailey**, an internationally noted speaker, author and thought leader, will deliver the keynote address, drawing from his most recent book, “Release Your Brilliance: The 4 Steps to Transforming Your Life and Revealing Your Genius to the World.” 20-year Wall Street veteran **Brooke Stephens**, author of “Talking Dollars and Making Sense: A Wealth-Building Guide for African-Americans” and “Wealth Happens One Day at a Time: 365 Days to a Brighter Financial Future,” will help close out the conference Saturday afternoon.

“Our presenters all have a track record for encouraging professionals to step outside of their comfort zones, advising and inspiring them to utilize and leverage the resources they have at hand. This is what we Mideast regional chapters must do: continue to be proactive in addressing the changes in our cities and ensuring that businesses in Black communities are sustained,” Stephens says.

“We will need collaboration and effective leadership in both the public and private sectors to bring about the change we need — our economic leadership conference is a call for such collaborative action. By beginning the dialogue and gleaning inspiration and direction from our guest speakers, the Mideast NMBAA chapters position ourselves to become the catalyst that will change and uplift the face of our communities, the catalyst that creates the dialogue, continues the dialogue and provides solutions.”

WHAT: NMBAA Mideast Regional Conference
Catalyst To Change — An Economic Leadership Conference And Career Expo
Workshops will cover topics such as:

- Business Success Strategies
- Entrepreneurship
- Procurement Opportunities
- Supplier Diversity
- Wealth-Building
- Workplace Diversity

WHEN: July 11–12, 2008

Friday, July 11

- Kickoff jazz event with Noa Bursie

Saturday, July 12

- Career Exposition
- Opening Breakfast with Dennis Kimbro
- Luncheon with keynote speaker Simon T. Bailey
- Afternoon session with Brooke Stephens

WHERE: Adams Mark Hotel
120 Church St.
Buffalo, N.Y.

WHO: Open to the public; hosted by Mideast NMBAA chapters

- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus, Ohio
- Dayton, Ohio
- Detroit
- Louisville, Ky.
- Pittsburgh
- Toronto
- Western New York (Buffalo, N.Y.; Corning, N.Y.; Rochester, N.Y.; Syracuse, N.Y.)

COST: Full Conference: \$75 members, \$100 non-members
Luncheon Only (Saturday): \$50
Career Expo Only (Saturday): \$35 members, \$50 non-members

HOW: To register or find more information, please visit www.nybmba.org.

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