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Oregon's First Minority Business Development Agency Business Center Now Open for Business

Seattle, WA, 2023 – On April 6, Business Impact NW gathered in Beaverton with more than 100 guests—including community leaders, resource partners, government agencies, and elected officials—to celebrate the grand opening of Oregon's first Minority Business Development Agency Business Center (MBDA). Guest speakers included Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici and Oregon Deputy Secretary of State, Cheryl Myers who both voiced their enthusiasm for the new business center and excitement for what they deem a major stride towards strengthening minority business enterprises across Oregon.

US Senator Jeff Merkley, a strong advocate for expanding MBDA's nationwide, proudly stated that small businesses are the backbones of communities, and the entrepreneurial spirit runs deep in Oregon. "Today's opening of the Minority Business Development Agency is a wonderful moment for Business Impact NW and the entire region," said Senator Merkley. "This center will be a powerful resource for BIPOC-owned businesses to establish connections, build community, and access the resources they need to grow."

In 2022, Business Impact NW was awarded a federal grant to establish the Oregon MBDA Business Center and provide critical aid to underserved and underrepresented small businesses and entrepreneurs in Oregon. The MBDA Business Center is just the first step towards bolstering opportunities for communities of color and increasing the rates of small business ownership and financial stability for underserved communities in Washington County and across Oregon.

Program director Kenyatta Trice says Oregon currently has great opportunities in place to help minority-owned businesses and envisions the Oregon MBDA as a liaison to create and make connections stronger. "For some small businesses, it's about determining the right resources geared toward growth, increased revenue, and longevity of the business. The Oregon MBDA provides services that ensure minority-owned businesses reach their full potential, extend generational wealth, and remain competitive."

Through the MBDA Business Center, Business Impact NW will support minority-owned business enterprises across Oregon by providing technical assistance and capital access services, including business training, contracting and certification aid, business accelerator programs, and loan readiness.

About Business Impact NW

Business Impact NW is a nonprofit dedicated to serving BIPOC, women, Veteran, immigrant, refugee, LGBTQ+, and low-income entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest through financial services, business coaching and training.