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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WPEO DONE DEALS CHALLENGE REPORTS OVER 3500 SIGNED CONTRACTS**

New York, NY- The Women Presidents' Educational Organization's has announce that over 3500 signed contracts between certified Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs) and Fortune 1000 companies were reported as part of the 2008 Done Deals™ Challenge. Two-thousand and eight marked the third consecutive year of the challenge, launched to recognize the business being conducted between WPEO Corporate Sponsors (all Fortune 1000 companies) and certified Women Business Enterprises (WBEs). The awardees were honored at two breakfast ceremonies held in New York and Washington D.C.

"We are proud that in 2008, the WPEO family has doubled the number of Done Deals reported within the specified timeframe. This unprecedented increase is yet additional validation that the WPEO programs readily work and that Fortune 1000 companies are opening their doors to more and more women-owned companies," said Marsha Firestone Ph.D., president and founder of the WPEO.

The WPEO-NY honored the following awardees:

- Corporate Leadership Award :: Time Warner;
- Corporate Leadership Award :: Prudential;
- WBE Leadership Award :: Lanartco Inc.;
- WBE Partnership Award :: Nukk, Freeman & Cerra, PC;
- Access NYC Award :: Eriksen Translations, Inc.;
- Access New York State Award :: Camelot Communications Group, Inc.

The WPEO-DC honored the following awardees:

- Corporate Leadership Award :: Freddie Mac
- Corporate Leadership Award :: Exxon Mobil Corporation
- WBE Leadership Award :: McKinley Marketing Partners, Inc.
- WBE Partnership Award :: McKay & Associates

As part of the Challenge, both WBEs and corporations reported any contracts signed between the dates of April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008. The WBE Partnership Award recognizes the WBE that has reported the most Done Deals with other certified WBEs. The two Access Awards recognize the WBE that has reported the most Done Deals with the City and State of New York.

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**About the Women Presidents' Educational Organization:**

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 mission of the WPEO is to increase access to business opportunities for WBEs. Our programs develop skills and knowledge for WBEs, advocate in the public and private sectors, foster relationships between WBEs, corporations and the government, and provide certification services. WPEO provides full service third party certification to women entrepreneurs in the New York and D.C regions.