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News Release

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## **TREASURER ROB McCORD HELPS POSITION SOUTHEASTERN PA WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FOR GROWTH**

*Conference to empower and support female entrepreneurs, part of McCord's Women & Money Project*

**PHILADELPHIA** – Pennsylvania Treasurer Rob McCord today hosted the latest in a series of events across the Commonwealth designed to help women entrepreneurs thrive in the changing economy. Nearly 150 women from across Southeastern Pennsylvania attended the day-long seminar at Temple University's Fox School of Business in Philadelphia. The seminar armed women entrepreneurs with resources to position their businesses for growth in this challenging economy.

"Research shows that women-owned businesses contribute nearly \$3 trillion to our national economy and created 23 million jobs – that's 16 percent of all U.S. jobs," said Treasurer McCord. "We must engage women entrepreneurs and give them tools to help their businesses be an integral part of the economic recovery."

Last week, the Small Business Administration (SBA) released a proposed rule aimed at expanding federal contracting opportunities for women-owned small businesses. Treasurer McCord applauded the efforts of the SBA and other organizations, including today's program partner Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), to ensure that five percent of federal contracting dollars go to women-owned businesses.

"In this tough economy, government procurement is a terrific opportunity to grow and strengthen small businesses," Treasurer McCord said. "Women business owners have the entrepreneurial drive that creates family-sustaining jobs for so many – and providing greater access to federal contracts positions them to continue and expand their positive economic impact."

Today's event provided attendees with vital information and strategies for growth, emphasizing cutting-edge innovative practices related to federal and state contracting, accessing capital, and business matchmaking. Treasurer McCord offers these seminars as part of the Women & Money Project, an umbrella program developed by his administration to support women when they could become economically vulnerable.

"My top priority as State Treasurer is to enhance the economic security of Pennsylvanians. And far too often, women suffer disproportionately from undeserved financial insecurity," Treasurer McCord said. "My goal in creating the Women & Money Project is to leverage Treasury's intellectual and organizational capital to offer concrete solutions to improve women's financial health and stability."

Treasurer McCord joined WIPP to host this event and similar seminars across the Commonwealth. Several Philadelphia-area academic and business development organizations provided program support. For more information on the Women & Money Project, visit [www.patreasury.org](http://www.patreasury.org) and click on the Women & Money tab.

*Pennsylvania Treasurer Rob McCord is committed to managing the Commonwealth's assets for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians. A respected business leader, McCord is focused on **strengthening the state's economy and enhancing the financial security of Pennsylvanians**. To learn more about Treasurer McCord's initiatives and programs, please visit the Pennsylvania Treasury Department at [www.patreasury.org](http://www.patreasury.org).*

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