

For Immediate Release

Local Business Gains National Recognition

Parallel Partners Named among Illinois' Top Woman Owned Businesses

Chicago, Illinois, 12/21/05: In recognition of the economic power of multicultural businesses, DiversityBusiness.com, the nations' leading multicultural internet site, recently named Parallel Partners as one of the top woman-owned businesses in Illinois.

The ranking is the 6th annual listing of Illinois top woman-owned businesses. The companies listed represent the state's top multicultural earners and challenge the long-held notion that a woman-owned business is small or insignificant. Members are sought after by major corporations wishing to increase spending with woman-owned companies.

The Impact of Woman Owned Business

Major corporations wishing to increase market share realize it is no longer just "the right thing" to do business with diversity owned companies. Affected by recent economic and demographic trends and changes, corporations throughout the country have recognized that buying products and services from diversity owned companies positively impacts their business. Diversity-owned businesses contribute over \$1.4 trillion in sales to the U.S. economy.

"Diversity businesses and consumers are a growing force in the U.S. economy, and a force to be reckoned with," said Kenton Clarke, CEO of Computer Consulting Associates International, the company that built DiversityBusiness.com. "It's no longer only about the Fortune 1000. This is a whole business segment that can carry its own, that provides jobs, products and services, and generates wealth for their communities. These are the new leaders in American business."

"Diversity in the workplace is of ever increasing importance," said Saven Bellarmino, President and founder of Parallel Partners. "In today's global economy, business must recognize and incorporate diversity workers in order to remain competitive. Diversity encourages a rich exchange of ideas and creativity which in turn enhances products and services, not to mention the quality of life in the workplace."

The Top Woman List

This is a classification that represents the top woman-owned businesses in Illinois, in sectors such as technology, manufacturing, food service and professional services. Large organizational buyers throughout the country that do

business with multicultural and women-owned businesses use the list. This list is produced annually by DiversityBusiness.com, the nation's leading multicultural B2B Internet portal that links large organizational buyers to multicultural product and service suppliers.

The winning companies will be honored at a special awards ceremony at DiversityBusiness.com's 6th Annual Multicultural Business Conference, taking place March 29 – March 31, 2006 at the MGM Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"I am honored to be among the leaders of woman-owned businesses in Illinois," said Saven Bellarmino, President and founder of Parallel Partners. "As an information technology search firm that started in Chicago and has since expanded to handle searches nationwide, we have experienced the boom times of the dot.com era as well as the tech wreck of the early 00's. Through it all, we have prospered due to the diversity of our own workforce, which has contributed to our success identifying top diversity candidates for our clients. We are truly a company that practices what we preach."

"The listed companies are the heroes of woman-owned business in America," said Kenton Clarke. "While Fortune magazine lists the best companies for women and minorities to work for, we list the top woman owned businesses. These are the people that have conquered the hurdles and made the sacrifices, building and strengthening their communities, providing jobs and helping to keep the fabric of the U.S. economy together."

For the complete list of winning companies, please visit:
www.diversitybusiness.com

About Parallel Partners

Parallel Partners is an executive search firm that offers recruitment services for direct hire positions and contract assignments for information technology personnel. President Saven Bellarmino founded Parallel Partners in 1995 to offer high end technical recruitment services to Chicago's top companies. Since then, Parallel Partners has expanded its services nationwide. Prior to founding Parallel Partners, Saven Bellarmino was the Corporate Vice President of Operations for a National Staffing Company. Parallel Partners' success is driven by know-how, employee retention and extreme customer care. Clients range from the Fortune 500 to emerging technology firms.

About DiversityBusiness.com

Launched in 1999, with over 30,000 members DiversityBusiness.com is the largest organization of diversity-owned businesses throughout the United States that provide goods and services to Fortune 1000 companies, government agencies and colleges and universities. Members use the sites technology to find

and track new business opportunities. It also produces the country's largest conference on diversity education and training for major corporations and small business. Its research on top businesses appears in Fortune, Forbes and numerous magazines and media publications. The site has gained national recognition and has won numerous awards for its content and design. DiversityBusiness.com is produced by Computer Consulting Associates International Inc. (CCAii.com) of Southport, CT. CCA was founded in 1980 by CEO Kenton Clarke.

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