

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DISTRICT OFFICE

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Delaware's New Women's Business Center Launches with Gathering of Business Luminaries

January 21 Event Spotlights SBA-Backed 'Women's Business Center at First State Community Loan Fund's' Biz-Building Resources, Expected Statewide Economic Impact

Wilmington, Del.– On Wednesday, **January 21, 2015**, Delaware's new Women's Business Center ("WBC") – **The Women's Business Center at First State Community Loan Fund** – celebrates its SBA-certified launch with a gathering of entrepreneurs and small business champions from government, private sector, and the media. The event will spotlight the WBC's expected business-building and statewide economic impact through its small business training, consulting and financing programs. **This event will be open to the press.**

"Since starting in 1992, First State Community Loan Fund ("First State CLF") has provided technical assistance, business consulting, and financing to women-owned businesses," said Jessica Carmona Gibson, Program Director of the Women's Business Center at First State CLF. "In fact, First State CLF helped the business hosting our January 21 WBC launch celebration – Primo Hoagies on Kirkwood Highway as Primo Hoagies' first woman-owned franchise. Now, that technical assistance and consulting work with the female entrepreneurial community can expand through the WBC at First State CLF."

WHO:

- Representatives for Delaware's Congressional Delegation
- Natalia Olson-Urtecho, SBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator
- John Banks, SBA Delaware District Director
- Jessica Carmona Gibson, Program Director, Women's Business Center at First State Community Loan Fund
- Susan D. Leath, President and Publisher, The News Journal Media Group
- Denai Wolfe, Owner, Primo Hoagies, Kirkwood Highway

WHAT: ***Remarks, media availability, photo opportunities.*** Regional small business leaders will detail how the **WBC at First State CLF can help Delaware entrepreneurs start and grow successful small businesses.** The WBC at First State CLF will invite public input on the new WBC's programs and services at a **series of upcoming focus group sessions.**

- Interview entrepreneurs and small business community leaders on small business issues and how SBA and Delaware's new WBC can help small businesses.
- Hear discussion of topics pertinent to Delaware small business owners.

WHEN: **January 21, 2015 11:00 a.m.**

WHERE: **Primo Hoagies**
3616 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808

NOTE: The first of the WBC at First State CLF's focus group sessions gathering public input on its programing will be **on January 27, 2015 at 6:00 pm** at:

Community Service Building 100 West 10th Street Wilmington, DE 19801 Confr. Room 6

*** Focus group pre-registration must be submitted by January 26, 2015 to dlee@firststateloan.org to attend the January 27 focus group session.***

“First State Community Loan Fund’s work is a tremendous fit with SBA’s mission to deliver quality technical assistance and financing options to our nation’s small businesses,” SBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Natalia Olson-Urtecho. “We, at SBA, are proud to support extending the reach of this community-changing organization by certifying its WBC.”

The WBC at First State CLF provides support targeted at but not exclusively limited to female entrepreneurs. The WBC program provides training, counseling, business plan development, savings accounts, retail services, mentoring and opportunities to empower women to succeed in business. The WBC at First State CLF operates Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The WBC at First State CLF’s headquarters is: The Community Services Building, 100 West 10th Street, Wilmington Del. By appointment only, the WBC at First State CLF will hold meetings at First State CLF’s Georgetown, Del., office: 20151 Office Circle, Georgetown, Del. 19947.

Primo Hoagies is a chain of gourmet Italian sandwich shops featuring sliced fresh deli products and fresh-baked breads. **Denai Wolfe was the first woman and the youngest person to own a Primo Hoagies location.** First State CLF was instrumental in Wolfe’s purchase of the Primo franchise and opening of her store, providing start-up and working capital financing, site selection and lease negotiation, and ongoing business management consultation.

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All of SBA’s programs and services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

The SBA is an independent federal agency, created in 1953, to assist small businesses start, grow, and prosper. The SBA provides financial assistance by: (1) making loans to help families and businesses recover from national disasters and (2) providing loan guarantees to commercial financial institutions for working capital (7a loans), buildings/land/equipment (504 loans through the Certified Development Corporations), and for exports. Through our resource partners, the SBA also offers a variety of business development programs and services such as training, government contracting and export assistance. SBA resource partners include Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, and SCORE (Counselors to America’s Small Businesses). For information on the SBA’s programs and services contact us at 302-573-6294 or www.sba.gov/de.

The SBA’s Office of Women’s Business Ownership serves as an advocate for women-owned businesses. The office oversees a nationwide network of over 100WBC’s, including the new Women’s Business Center at First State Community Fund. These WBC’s provide business training, counseling and mentoring geared specifically to women, especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. The program is a public-private partnership with locally-based non-profits.