



**For more information:**

Shelagh Braley  
Enterprise Center at Salem State College  
978-542-7576  
[sbraley@enterprisectr.org](mailto:sbraley@enterprisectr.org)

Emily Reynolds  
National Women's Business Council  
202-205-6829  
[Emily.Reynolds@nwbc.gov](mailto:Emily.Reynolds@nwbc.gov)

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## Local Summit for Women Entrepreneurs on June 16

SALEM, Mass. – The National Women's Business Council, in conjunction with the Enterprise Center at Salem State College, announced today their plan to hold a local summit for women entrepreneurs in the Boston and North Shore regions Wednesday, June 16 from 8:30 to 2 p.m. at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Massachusetts. The summit will allow area women business owners to recommend priorities and explore challenges facing their firms, promote dialogue among the women's business community, and help the National Women's Business Council formulate policy recommendations in Washington, D.C.

"As an appointee to the National Women's Business Council, I believe in the Council's mission to identify the issues women-owned firms face and embrace our responsibility to convey these concerns to Congress and the Executive Branch to promote actionable change. This Summit enables the Council to meet with women business owners on the front line of growing their companies and to amplify their voices by taking their concerns directly to policymakers in the Capitol. Right now, due to recent advances in the federal women's procurement program, we face a special opportunity for input that can facilitate contracts with federal agencies and greater accountability to meet the existing congressional mandate of 5% of federal contract dollars awarded to women," said Wendi Goldsmith, CEO of The Bioengineering Group. "The recession has been hard on small business, and as our nation's outlook improves, it is imperative to support women-owned firms any way we can."

Speakers will address key national policy challenges and the current local economic climate impacting women-owned firms. Breakout sessions will include discussions on such topics as federal procurement, accessing capital, healthcare coverage, balancing work and family life, retaining talent and more.

This event, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Mass., is free for all participants and will include a complimentary lunch. Space is limited, so advanced registration is required. Register at <http://summitforwomenentrepreneurs61610.eventbrite.com/>

For more information, please contact either the National Women's Business Council at 202-205-6829 or [Emily.Reynolds@nwbc.gov](mailto:Emily.Reynolds@nwbc.gov) or The Enterprise Center at 978-542-7576 or [sbraley@enterprisectr.org](mailto:sbraley@enterprisectr.org)

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. For more information about the Council, its mission and activities, visit [www.nwbc.gov](http://www.nwbc.gov).

The Enterprise Center is a 10-year-old nonprofit small business growth center located in Salem. Its mission is to help business owners start and grow companies that benefit the North Shore region and to bring employment opportunities to this area. Last year, the Enterprise Center served more than 3,000 businesses with skill-building workshops and its annual North of Boston Business Plan Competition. For more information about the Enterprise Center, visit [www.enterprisectr.org](http://www.enterprisectr.org)