



# News Release

---

409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 210 ★ Washington, DC 20024 ★ 202-205-3850 (p) ★ 202-205-6825 (f) ★ [www.nwbc.gov](http://www.nwbc.gov)

---

**For Release on:**  
October 4, 2010

**Contact:** Emily Reynolds  
202-205-6829 office  
[Emily.Reynolds@nwbc.gov](mailto:Emily.Reynolds@nwbc.gov)

## Donna James to be Named Chair of National Women's Business Council

Washington, DC—President Barack Obama has announced his intent to appoint Donna A. James to be the Chair of the National Women's Business Council (NWBC).

James brings the best of all business worlds to the National Women's Business Council. For 25 years, James honed her skills as a corporate executive at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Most recently, James served as President of Nationwide Strategic Investments, a division of Nationwide Insurance. In this role, she had direct responsibility for rationalizing and executing growth or exit strategies for five different US and global based financial services subsidiaries.

She is currently the President and CEO of Lardon & Associates LLC., a small consulting firm that specializes in advising business leaders on issues related to governance, new business development, strategy, financial and risk management and leadership development.

As an experienced business leader, James brings an appropriate balance of corporate and small business perspectives and resources to the National Women's Business Council.

"I am very honored and excited to work with Donna James in her new capacity as Chair of the National Women's Business Council," says Dana M. Lewis, Executive Director of the NWBC. "Donna has decades of corporate executive experience and the recent knowledge of starting and growing a small business. This powerful combination will allow her to skillfully lead a Council that is dedicated to understanding and advocating for the women's business community."

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chair for the National Women's Business Council," says James. "I look forward to working with other experienced women who share the vision of growing and empowering female entrepreneurs. There is an inherent value proposition for strengthening our nation's economy and the pipeline of aspiring women as leaders, employers, producers and visionaries."

James serves on the board of directors for several public companies including: Coca-Cola Enterprises, CNO Financial Inc., Limitedbrands, and Time Warner Cable.

James remains actively involved in her home state of Ohio. She is founder and chair of the Center for Healthy Families, a non-profit focused on transforming the lives of pregnant and parenting teens and their children; serves as a board trustee of Ohio Health; and performs her duties as the Executive Director of the African American Leadership Academy.

James and her husband Larry have two children, Christopher and Justin, and five grandchildren.

###

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. As the nation's advocate for the more than 10.4 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women's Business Council works to promote increased access to affordable health care, access to capital, access to federal contracts and international markets, and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed. The Council conducts research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations and connects the women's business community to policy makers in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.