



Local/National News

Program recognizing outstanding work of entrepreneurs launched

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Intent on recognizing the men and women who contribute to a successful economy by creating their own businesses, the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) yesterday hosted the official launch of the Pioneers of Prosperity Awards Program.

The program is awarding up to \$100,000 in prizes to entrepreneurs across the country and the Caribbean based on their ability to create unique value for their customers through innovative products or services; generate a sustainable profit; invest in their employees; and protect the future by strengthening local and global environments and communities.

During the launch ceremony, representatives of Pioneers of Prosperity Julie Kennedy and Abigail Noble signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GBCC president Greg Moss, which was witnessed by various key officials.

Noting that the Chamber has for almost 30 years assisted in building a more vibrant economy for the island, Moss said that the organization believes strongly that an economy driven by enterprising entrepreneurs and industrious men and women will positively contribute to that cause.

"Yet so very often, the contribution of our business leaders go unrecognized. I hold the opinion that today's launch of the Pioneers of Prosperity Program will serve to single out and reward outstanding business leaders in our business community," he said.

Moss explained that the program is aimed at inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs emerging in economies by identifying, rewarding and promoting small and medium-size businesses in the region; recognizing their achievements with award monies and other support.

The introduction of the program, Moss explained, is quite timely given the current global economic conditions.

"I firmly believe that Pioneers Of Prosperity will offer a ray of hope to business owners particularly during these challenging economic times," he said.

The program is sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank and currently exists in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The grand prize will be \$100,000. There will be an additional

\$500,000 in prizes to award across the Caribbean. Those prizes will be between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Winners will also be connected to a network of technical expertise, potential in-vestors, and other entrepreneurs on the local, regional and global level.

To be eligible for the award, companies must employ at least five and up to 250 employees, earn \$100,000 – \$5 million in revenues per year, be a for-profit entity and must have been profitable for two of the last three years.

Now into its third year, the program extends throughout Africa. This year will mark its official installation in the Caribbean region. The program was launched in New Providence earlier this week and a similar event will take place in Abaco in the coming days.

"Pioneers of Prosperity is most excited to launch our awards program in The Bahamas as a part of our regional Caribbean program, which has also been successfully launched and well received in Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Haiti, Guyana and Jamaica," shared an excited Noble.

"The awards program presents a wonderful opportunity for small and medium-sized business owners to access financial awards, while being recognized for their enormous contributions to nation building."

Interested persons can learn more about the program and submit their applications on the website www.pioneersofprosperity.org

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