

HERMAN A. JOHNSON (1916-2004)

Herman A. Johnson celebrated more than 40 consecutive years as a member of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. One of the first African-Americans to serve on The Chamber's Board of Directors, Mr. Johnson also helped start The Chamber's successful Centurions community leadership development program. He was an important mentor and role model for hundreds of area business professionals, and demonstrated the importance of education, social services, growth and development for minority groups for many years. He paved the way in Kansas City for minorities in boardrooms, owning businesses, helping youth, and assisting minority students to obtain scholarships. In 1998, Mr. Johnson challenged The Chamber to do more, to stretch to be an inclusive, meaningful resource to all businesses of all backgrounds. That was the genesis of what we call POWER.



The Herman A. Johnson Award will be presented each year to successful mentorship candidates in the POWER initiative. This distinction exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and development of opportunities for businesses as Mr. Johnson has throughout his life.

MINORITY BUSINESS ALLIANCE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Officers

Ed Honesty, Best Harvest Bakeries
MBA, Inc. Chairman

Tara K. Johnson, Herman Johnson, LLC
MBA, Inc. Co-Vice Chairman

Richard Morris, Local Investment Commission
MBA, Inc. Co-Vice Chairman

Board Members

Herman A. Johnson (honorary), Herman Johnson, LLC

Robert Givens, Mazuma Credit Union

Grace Hernandez, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Joseph Melookaran, JMA Chartered

Richard Ng, Bo Lings Chinese Restaurant

Lonnie Scott, Mid-America Minority
Business Development Center

Eugene Standifer, Local Investment Commission

Oscar Tshibanda, Tshibanda & Associates, LLC

Ex Officio Board Members

Irvin Belzer, Bryan Cave, LLP
Legal Counsel

Peter deSilva, United Missouri Bank, n.a.
Finance and Audit Committee Chair

David Fowler, KPMG, LLP

Chamber Staff

Peter S. Levi
MBA, Inc. President

Richard L. Gibson
*MBA, Inc.
Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary*

Robert S. Grant
MBA, Inc. Senior Vice President

Consuella McCain-Nunnally
MBA, Inc. Manager



WELCOME TO POWER

Partnering Organizations With Essential Resources

THE VISION

The goal of POWER is to enhance minority business owners' competencies in doing business in today's dynamic market.

THE MISSION

POWER was designed to develop partnerships to help minority business owners grow their businesses by leveraging resources, strengthening managerial and leadership competencies, and offering networking opportunities.

OVERVIEW OF POWER

WHO:

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, through the Minority Business Alliance, Inc., is committed to strengthening opportunities for minority business owners in the greater metropolitan area. Through POWER, the Minority Business Alliance encourages community partnership opportunities for consultation, support, education, and training.

WHAT:

Minority Business Alliance, Inc. is a collaborative effort for minority business growth led by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the Minority Business Alliance, through POWER (Partnering Organizations With Essential Resources), is to help minority-owned businesses build longevity through increased revenues, job creation, and sustained profitability.

With partnerships in the African-American, Asian American, American Indian, and Hispanic/Latino communities, POWER continues to demonstrate that inclusion is the key to economic growth. As we join forces with all communities, we build a stronger economy for our children, and workforce, to promote effective solutions to our ongoing social and economic challenges.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Consuella McCain-Nunnally at (816) 374-5465 or email power@kcchamber.com.

WHAT IS POWER?

POWER is a strategic collaboration led by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, designed to assist minority businesses and entrepreneurs in reaching the next level of growth and success. The program was created to promote economic independence and wealth in minority communities.

POWER's objective is to enhance the business and economic development of minority businesses through the formation of successful business relationships, while providing resources, training and collaborative support in areas such as financial management, marketing, and communications.

HOW CAN COMPANIES GET INVOLVED IN POWER?

There are many ways that companies and individuals can get involved with POWER:

- 1) Herman A. Johnson Business Mentorship
 - Become a Mentee/Mentor
 - Become an Advisory Council Member

HOW CAN COMPANIES GET INVOLVED IN POWER? (CONT.)

- 2) Sponsorship Opportunities
 - POWER of Diversity Celebration
 - MBE/WBE Directory
 - POWER Briefing Sessions
-

THE HISTORY OF POWER

1997: Rhonda Holman, through her MBA thesis "Kansas City Minority Business Ownership," showed low numbers of minority-owned businesses in the Greater Kansas City area.

1998: E. Wynn Presson, chairman of The Chamber's Board of Directors, introduced a new Chamber initiative, The Workforce Investment Initiative.

1999: Peter Lemke, chairman of The Chamber Board of Directors, focused on small business, minority business development, and racism.

2000: Terry Dunn, chairman of The Chamber's GRO-KC Workforce Development committee, incorporated the Diversity Development program. Bill Lucas, Chamber Chair, appointed Marcus Jackson vice chair of GRO-KC and Chair of Diversity Development, and the Minority Business Alliance Committee was formed.

Mr. Jackson charged the committee with two distinct goals:

- 1) To develop a networking program representing minority businesses
- 2) Develop a mentoring program with two distinct populations
 - a) First time entrepreneurial ventures
 - b) First generation minority businesses in the metro area

2001: POWER (Partnering Organizations With Essential Resources), is implemented to match comprehensive area resources to the needs of minority businesses in Greater Kansas City. African-American businesses are introduced to the Herman A. Johnson Business Mentorship.

2002: The Chamber's POWER program celebrates 34 months of free education and training services to the community. POWER Briefing Sessions are offered at locations throughout the metropolitan area. Hispanic/Latino businesses are introduced to the Mentorship.

2003: The Chamber names Leo Morton as vice chair of POWER, Minority Business. Asian American businesses are introduced to the Mentorship.

2004: Four African-American businesses graduate from POWER's three-year program. American Indian businesses are introduced to the Mentorship.

2005: Five Hispanic/Latino businesses graduate from the three-year program. More than 70 sessions have been completed in the Mentorship.

2006: Four Asian American businesses graduate from the program; totaling 35 participants since 2001. Fifteen new businesses are accepted into the Herman A. Johnson Business Mentorship.

2007: The Chamber names Ed Honesty as vice chair of POWER, Minority Business. POWER graduates report a 42 percent increase in company revenues and a 73 percent increase in number of employees since graduating from the POWER program.