

2009 REGIONAL PURCHASING & PROCUREMENT EXPO

MINORITY BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

Heritage Business of the Year: Zekiah Technologies, Inc.

Brianna Bowling, Owner and Founder

- Zekiah Technologies has been in business since 1999, located in Charles County.
- A small women-owned business focusing on software development and integration specializing in geospatial analysis and information management.
- 2002 Leading Edge Award winner.
- Brianna Bowling, owner and founder of Zekiah Technologies, has been named “Soar Like an Eagle Entrepreneur of the Month” for December 2008.
- While Zekiah completes many high profile projects for our United States military, they also have worked with our local Charles County government and recently completed a custom GIS application for the Charles County Economic Development Division
- Zekiah Technologies has an aggressive program to allocate funds to allow employees to perform their own research and development. This not only benefits the organization through the production of creative new products or methodologies, but it also provides employees with the opportunity to experiment and learn new technologies.

Emerging Business of the Year: Aercrete Advantage LLC

Lenny Harris, President

Richard Knight, VP of Corporate Relations

Maurice Thompson, VP Government Relations

- Aercrete Advantage, a minority owned Maryland Limited Liability Company, founded in August 2008, promotes the concept of Green Building Initiatives by providing environmentally friendly construction materials and products to the commercial building industry. Located in Charles County.
- Aercrete Advantage is the exclusive distributor of Hebel Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (AAC) for the Mid-Atlantic (DC, MD and VA) marketplace. A primary emerging “green” product.

Individual County Business of the Year

Calvert: Brothers’ Johnson, Inc.

Langford Johnson

Everard Johnson

Michael Johnson

Tony Johnson

- Brothers' Johnson, Inc. is a family owned business with deep ties to the Calvert County Community.
- Brothers' Johnson, Inc. purchased their first septic truck in September 1988. The brothers knew very little about the business. However, they did know that failure was not an option.
- Because of their drive and enthusiasm, that these four brothers purchased two additional septic trucks, 100 portable toilets and crowd pleasers (bathrooms) for renting.
- Together, these brothers have become a household name in Calvert County.
- As if running a successful business was not enough, Brothers' Johnson, Inc. finds time to assist with community events that include the winery festival, the county fair and RFK Stadium activities, to name a few.
- The most rewarding community held action that these entrepreneurs sponsor is the annual cookout in August. The event has grown from 100 to over 1,300 people fellowshiping with one another.

Charles: Adams Communication & Engineering Technology, Inc.

(ACET, Inc.)

Charles Adams, President and CEO

Claudine Adams, President and COO

- Founded in 1999 by Charles Adams, President and CEO, ACET specializes in providing system engineering and information technology support to the United States Department of Defense, sectors of the intelligence community, and other private sector clients. Areas of expertise include System Engineering and Business Solutions, Enterprise Technical Solutions, Software Solutions, Emerging Technology, and Intelligence Collections and Analysis.
- Today ACET employs almost 100 people, with headquarters located in Waldorf.
- In May of this year, ACET won its first multi-billion-dollar Army Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract. Anticipate their growth will land them to be a 1,000 person company within the next three years. This is a significant accomplishment considering they are only one of two small businesses to be awarded this contract, and the only Maryland based small company to win an award.

St. Mary's: G.C.G.C Fair Corporation Trading as McDonald's

Gerald and Charlene Fair, Owners/Operators

- Owners of a growing chain of McDonald's restaurants throughout the Southern Maryland region.
- 1991 marked the beginning of their careers as franchise owners of Corporate McDonald's restaurants, the leading fast food service provider in the United States.
- Employ over 500 employees with their company.
- Their commitment to better serving the community is also evident in their support of local churches, organizations, youth groups and the local chapter of The American Cancer Society.
- Along with sponsoring recreational activities, Gerald and Charlene believe that obtaining a good education is a crucial ingredient to success. They further promote this belief

through the annual Scholarship Programs provided by McDonald's Corporation to those who exhibit a strong will to continue their education in hopes of improving their life.