



**For Immediate Release**

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## **NJ Small Business Development Centers Visit Cape May Small Businesses**

**CAPE MAY, N.J., Jan. 31, 2006** – Small business owners today met with representatives of the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers, (NJSBDC) and local officials to voice their concerns about public policy and to explain what kinds of support services they need. The “Listening to Small Business” forum, sponsored by the County of Cape May and NJSBDC took place at the Cape May County Administration Building in Cape May Court House.

Attendees heard from NJSBDC Director Brenda Hopper, Associate State Director Deborah Smarth and Stockton Small Business Development Center, Regional Director Joseph Molineaux, District 1 legislators Senator Nick Asselta and Assemblymen Jeff Van Drew and Nelson T. Albano and Cape May County Freeholder Leonard Desiderio. Attending business owners discussed the challenges of getting businesses started, finding financing and even how to cope with payment delays in contracting with larger corporations.

Ms. Hopper told the gathering about the business support services that NJSBDC provides to small businesses through its 11 regional offices, including the Stockton regional center, which serves Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties. She also explained that the concerns and requests for services gathered at today’s events will be compiled into a report that NJSBDC will present to the state legislature and its appropriate committees.

“I feel it should always be a priority to support legislative initiatives that stimulate small businesses in the State of New Jersey,” said Senator Asselta. “This why I introduced Senate Bill 305 which will create a Small Retail Business Assistance Fund by appropriating \$750,000 for low interest loans. Particularly in South Jersey, where it is difficult to develop land due to environmental regulations, it is necessary to support the small businesses in our area to sustain economic vitality,” he said.

“My fellow District 1 Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew and I are committed to listening to our local businesses and learning from their experiences,” said Assemblyman Nelson Albano. “I want to make sure that I am always mindful of our South Jersey economic engine each and every day that I drive to the Statehouse.”

“The county's advanced technologies enable us to offer businesses the information they need to recognize the potential of locating as well as expanding in our county,” said Freeholder Desiderio. “Additionally, County Government through the Office of

Economic Resources and Capital Planning is a source for information and a vehicle for small business owners to find the help they need,” concluded Desiderio.

NJSBDC has previously held “Listening to Small Business” forums and walking tours in South Orange, Long Branch, Perth Amboy, Atlantic City and Sayreville.

### **About NJSBDC**

NJSBDC helps small businesses start up, grow and manage their growth. Last year, a staff of just 25 full-time experts and 55 specialty consultants on call provided one-to-one counseling at no charge to more than 7,500 entrepreneurs and small-business owners, and almost 18,000 attended some 900 training sessions for nominal fees. NJSBDC helps clients develop business plans, raise capital, formulate marketing strategies, identify international-trade and government-procurement opportunities, commercialize their technology and do business online.

NJSBDC is headquartered in Newark, at Rutgers Business School, and has 11 regional centers around the state, which has more than 750,000 small businesses. It is a partnership of the SBA; the New Jersey Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission; and Rutgers Business School. The Cape May was the sixth in a series of small business forums and downtown walking tours taking place around the state, designed to help NJSBDC better serve its constituents. Information resulting from the events will be compiled into a report that NJSBDC will present to the N.J. Legislature and its appropriate committees.

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