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For Immediate Release

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Small Business Owners Voice Concerns to New Jersey Small Business Development Centers and Local Officials Hear Small Business Concerns

SAYREVILLE, N.J. , August 15, 2005 – More than 20 small business owners today met with representatives of the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers (NJSBDC), state and local elected officials and economic development agencies to voice their concerns about public policy and to explain what kinds of support services they need. The “Listening to Small Business” forum took place at the Faith Fellowship Community Development Corporation in Sayreville.

Attendees heard from District 19 Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski, Sayreville B o r o u g h C o u n c i l p r e s i d e n t Frank Makransky, Brenda Hopper, Director, New Jersey Small Business Development Centers, Deb Smarth, Associate State Director, NJSBDC Lorraine Allen, Regional Director, College of New Jersey Small Business Development Center (serving Middlesex and Mercer Counties), Randy Corman, Director, Economic Development in Sayreville and Rev. Clarence Bullock, Director, Faith Fellowship Community Development Corporation.

Attending business cited, among their concerns, securing affordable health insurance, bonding requirements of competing for State contracts, “onerous” paperwork needed for women and minority certifications and problems in gaining appropriate licenses to do business.

Ms. Hopper told the gathering about the business support services that NJSBDC provides to small businesses through its 11 regional offices and 26 satellite offices, including The College of New Jersey regional center, which serves Middlesex and Mercer Counties. She also explained that the concerns and requests for services gathered at today’s events and others planned throughout the state will be compiled into a report that NJSBDC will present to the state legislature and its appropriate committees.

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

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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 Atlantic City event was the fourth in a series of breakfasts and downtown walking tours taking place around the state this year, 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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A partnership of Rutgers Business School, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the New Jersey Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission.