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Radisson Hotel Donates Canvas; Hosts Tiger Artworks Silent Auction and Art Sale

Baton Rouge, LA

On November 13th, the Microbusiness Enterprise Corporation of Ascension (MBECA) will host its first ever Tiger Artworks Silent Auction and Art Sale at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge. The event was inspired by LSU football veteran Yahmani Adams, who played for the LSU Tigers as a wide receiver in 1997. As a result of the entrepreneurship training and technical assistance he received from MBECA earlier in the year, he desired to create a program that could benefit other athletes; Football 2 Free Enterprise Camp. "I knew I had to try and find a way to give back to the organization. I learned a lot from the program, and it helped me to improve my business model by attending numerous business planning classes. I also received some financial assistance to improve my business," he said. "Many athletes go on to play professional ball, and many of them never make it. No matter what happens, many athletes go on to become entrepreneurs and do not have the skills to be successful. Some of them also become investors in other business ventures and end up losing a great deal of money because they also lack the necessary training to make smart business decisions. This program would certainly help them improve their outcomes," he added.

As a result of Yahmani's passion, MBECA created its newest program, Football 2 Free Enterprise Camp, a three day entrepreneurship training camp targeted to football athletes. The camp is scheduled for early spring 2010. His vision for the program was to ensure that all football athletes targeted for professional athletic careers or otherwise, would have the opportunity to learn the specialized and technical training skills necessary to start and run a successful business.

In order to generate funding for the program, the board and supporters of MBECA are hosting its first annual Tiger Artworks Silent Auction and Art Sale. The Auction and Sale will be held at the



Radisson Hotel (I-10 at South Acadian Thruway). The festivities kick off with a Closed Bid Art Auction and Cocktail Social on Friday, November 13 (7pm til) and will continue on November 14th with an open art show from 9am – 2pm featuring artists who specialize in tiger artwork. Featured at the event is an 18 feet long canvas depicting numerous scenes from Louisiana State University and was donated by the owners of the Radisson Hotel to demonstrate their passion for entrepreneurship. In addition, the Radisson has also graciously sponsored as the main host for the event.

The fee to enter the Silent Bid Auction & Cocktail Social will be \$60 per couple / \$35 per person which includes hors d'oeuvres, cocktails (beer and wine), and entertainment. There will also be a champagne fountain drawing, door prizes, and lots of other surprises during the auction. The art show is free to the public.

The Microbusiness Enterprise Corporation of Ascension (MBECA) was founded in February 2003 to meet the growing need to provide economic development through training and financial lending for small businesses in Ascension, St. James, Iberville, and Assumption Parishes. Since its inception, MBECA has grown to startup and / or improve over 1,000 small businesses in South Louisiana and has been instrumental in post Katrina recovery efforts throughout the South eastern part of the State. Most of MBECA's programs are free and most have criteria for participation. MBECA is a nonprofit organization funded primarily by state and federal grant dollars. As a vital link to the area's ongoing growth and development of micro and emerging businesses, MBECA's vision is to continue to create programs which aid in the development of its citizenry's self sufficiency skills in the form of small business startup and expansion services. Visit www.mbeca.org for more information regarding its programs.

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