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**To:** [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)  
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September 15th to October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time for Americans to celebrate the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our country—including our economy. Did you know there are more than three million Hispanic-owned businesses in America today and that Hispanics [start businesses at three times the national average](#)?

In this newsletter, we outline resources for Hispanic entrepreneurs as well as some great success stories that illustrate how big an impact Hispanic entrepreneurs have had on our business competitiveness.

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## Helping Grow Hispanic Businesses

The Small Business Administration's [8\(a\) Business Development Program](#) helps qualifying entrepreneurs develop and grow through one-on-one counseling, training workshops and other forms of guidance. The program also provides support to firms who are interested in securing government contracts.

[Find out more about the program](#) and how to contact your local SBA office today.

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## Federal Support for Hispanic-Owned Businesses

Are you looking to enhance the visibility of your business? If so, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) can help. This U.S. Department of Commerce agency provides mid-size minority businesses with everything from advice on business partnerships to exporting tips.

[Read more about the MBDA.](#)

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## Success Stories: From Motivational Speaking to Zumba

For evidence of the impact Hispanic-owned businesses have made in this country, look no further than Pegine Echevarria. Based in Jacksonville, FL, Echevarria and her company Team Pegine, Inc. provide training and motivational speaking services to government agencies and Fortune 500 companies. According to the Center for Women's Business Research, only 3 percent of all women-owned firms have revenues of \$1 million or more. Team Pegine, Inc. is one of them. [Learn more about Echevarria's unique story.](#)

Looking for more examples of success? [Check out this interactive list of inspiring Hispanic entrepreneurs](#), who have started everything from Zumba Fitness to 3D Robotics.

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## Network = Net Worth

As cliché as it may sound, there's a lot of truth to the phrase "your network is your net worth." We've compiled a list of events nationwide that will help keep your Hispanic-owned business on track for continued success.

1. The Viva Miami Business Expo is a signature event designed to help companies promote their business within the Hispanic community of Miami-Dade County. The Expo, sponsored by the [South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#), will take place on September 25th in Miami, FL. [Details](#).
2. Learn how to plan, start and grow your business at this event sponsored by the [Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley](#). This event will take place on September 25th in San Jose, CA. [Details](#).
3. Who says networking has to involve a suit and tie? The [San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) and University of Texas at San Antonio have teamed up to host the 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Game Day on September 26th. This event will be held in San Antonio, TX. [Details](#).
4. Join the [Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) (GWHCC) on October 1st for their Hispanic Heritage Celebration in Washington, DC. This is one of the GWHCC's largest networking events. [Details](#).

[Check out our events calendar](#) to find more events in your neighborhood.

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## Stay Connected!

Are you following us on Twitter? If not, you've missed a lot of great information! Check out the **Best 5 Tweets** from the past week below. Follow us at [@BizUSA](#).

1. New web app helps #business owners make #data driven decisions via [@USCensusBureau](#) [[Tweet](#)]
2. #SmallBusinesses will have access to \$17.4M to help enter & compete in the #export market [[Tweet](#)]
3. Hello, #Houston! Come learn about careers on 9/16. @USPTO's new office in TX opens in Nov. #USPTONearYou #USPTOTexas [[Tweet](#)]

4. .@hannover\_messe is the top industrial trade show in the world & the U.S. is the official partner country next year [[Tweet](#)]

5. 20 #smallbusinesses will receive \$3.2M in research grants via @usnistgov's #SmallBiz Innovation Research program [[Tweet](#)]

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