

UCSD to co-sponsor symposium on international trade opportunities for women business owners

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UCSD TO CO-SPONSOR SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS MARCH 24-26

The University of California, San Diego, the National Women's Business Council (NWBC), and the office of the Consulate General of Mexico, will sponsor a symposium March 24-26 on international trade opportunities in the Pacific Rim and Latin America for women business owners.

The three-day event, which is free and open to members of the public, will be held at the UCSD campus and the Tijuana Chamber of Commerce. UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) and the Center for U.S.Mexican Studies are co-sponsors of the symposium. International trade experts from UCSD, the Mexican and California state governments, NWBC and the business sector will participate in the conference.

The symposium will include a series of expert roundtable discussions as well as testimony from women business owners regarding their achievements and barriers in the international arena. Panel discussions pertaining to such issues as the impact of NAFTA on small business and the economic potential of the U.S.-Mexico-Asia trade triangle, are just a few of the issues expected to be covered.

"Women-owned businesses are the leading growth sector of the U.S. economy," said Marilu Meyer, acting chair of NWBC. "A study by the National Foundation for Women Business Owners revealed that by the year 2000, women-owned businesses are expected to represent over fifty percent of U.S. businesses.

Now, as we are seeing the emergence of a truly global economy, it is imperative that women are made aware of every business and educational opportunity in order to fully participate in the expanding marketplace."

According to Meyer, the symposium will include the participation of experts from all facets of international trade and finance, along with women business owners in import and export trade. For additional information about the program, please contact Paula Breitweiser or Deborah Darrell, (202) 2053850.

UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies is the only professional school in the nation to focus exclusively on the Pacific Rim region. The university's Center for U.S.- Mexican Studies is recognized internationally as the leading U.S. institution of advanced scholarly research, training, and public service devoted entirely to Mexico and U.S.-Mexican relations.

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