



U.S. Small Business Administration

News Release

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT OFFICE

Release Date: Apr. 5, 2016 **Contact:** Janet Heyl 412-395-6560 x103 Janet.Heyl@sba.gov

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WHAT: Media are invited to Chatham University as SBA Pittsburgh District Director Dr. Kelly Hunt officially recognizes the University and its President Dr. Esther Barazzone as recipients of the area's new SBA Women's Business Center, as well as welcoming Ms. Anne Flynn Schlicht as its director. For interviews, contact Janet Heyl at 412-395-6560 x103.

WHEN: Friday, April 8, 8:45 a.m.

WHERE: James Laughlin Music Hall, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Women's History Month Culminates with Awarding of SBA Women's Business Center Chatham University Site of Region's New WBC; Celebration Slated for April 8

PITTSBURGH – Fresh on the heels of celebrating Women's History Month, area women entrepreneurs have even more to applaud; the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is awarding a grant to Chatham University to staff a Women's Business Center (WBC) serving Pittsburgh and the surrounding counties.

"We couldn't be more pleased," said Dr. Kelly Hunt, SBA Pittsburgh District director. "Chatham has a storied history of assisting women entrepreneurs and we believe, through this center, they will continue dotting our landscape with women-owned small businesses by assisting both startups and current business owners."

Rebecca Harris, director, of Chatham University's Center for Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) pursued the grant to further assist women business owners and entrepreneurs "As a [former] woman small business owner, I'm very passionate about assisting women entrepreneurs," she added. "They are one of the fastest-growing business segments and both local and federal support is essential to ensure continued growth and success."

Anne Flynn Schlicht, who worked alongside Harris at the CWE, is serving as the WBC's newly appointed director. "It's such an honor," Schlicht said. "We're offering unique programming, one-on-one and group mentoring and counseling all designed to address the distinct challenges facing women business owners."

The WBC program, established by Congress in 1988, is administered by the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership and promotes the growth of women-owned businesses through business training and technical assistance, and provides access to credit and capital, federal contracts, and international trade opportunities.