C. Dawkins

Thank you, Jane. On behalf of the Women’s Bureau, I would like to thank our presenters, Claudia James, Sheila Murphy, and Leslie Michael, for providing us with their expertise on being a business owner. A special thanks goes to Fritz Trakowski of the Department of Labor’s Office of Small Business Programs and, of course, Wilma Goldstein of the U. S. Office of Small Business Administration for supporting this call. We’d also like to thank our mentors and our Wi$e Up participants for being on the call today as well.

U. S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, has stated, “Our country needs the entrepreneurial energy, creativity, and dreams of women entrepreneurs. On top of all that you do, you create hope and opportunity and jobs for so many people. Women-owned businesses are growing at twice the rate of all U. S. firms, employing over nine million workers and generating more than a trillion dollars annually in revenue. Women-owned businesses are not only growing in number, they’re growing in strength.”

I’d like to personally be amongst that group of entrepreneurs. I wrote a business plan some years ago, and as I move closer to
retirement, I plan to become a business owner. This topic was so right on time for me, and hopefully it was for many of you too.

Today’s call is being recorded. To listen to recordings or read transcripts of previous calls, please visit the Wi$e Up Web site at www.wiseupwomen.org. This concludes our call for today.

Please join us for our next Wi$e Up teleconference call on November 30, 2005, at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. Thank you again for participating. We hope that you’ll join our next call next month. Thank you.