Media Contact WCEC Women's Business Center Contact: Nichole Russell Phone: (973)507-9700 Email: nrussell@wcecnj.org

Annual WCEC Business Pitch Competition June 18th in Livingston Networking, Feedback, and Cash Prizes Await at Pitch Competition for NJ Woman-Owned Businesses

Chatham, NJ, May 19, 2024 – The WCEC Women's Business Center announces the return of its annual <u>Business Pitch Competition</u> after a pandemic-related hiatus. The event is open to anyone interested in supporting and empowering New Jersey's woman-owned small business community, starting a business, or growing their small business. It will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 9am - 12pm at Eisenhower Corporate Campus (290 West Mount Pleasant Avenue) in Livingston, NJ.

For the sixth time since 2015, small business owners along with WCEC instructors, business coaches, board members, and sponsors will attend for networking and to provide feedback to WCEC small business owners pitching their business plans. Community stakeholders such as the <u>U.S. Small Business Administration</u>, <u>RetireReady NJ</u>, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (<u>NJEDA</u>), the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners (<u>NJAWBO</u>), and the Hudson County of Business Opportunity (<u>HCOBO</u>) will also be present. This year's sponsors include the global law firm Brown Rudnick LLP, Wells Fargo, PNC, Valley Bank Women in Business, AT&T, Affinity Federal Credit Union, Seva Digital, and more.

"We're excited to bring back in-person events for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic starting with our annual Business Pitch Competition. This event underscores our steadfast dedication to empowering womenowned enterprises and fostering entrepreneurial spirit throughout New Jersey." – Robin Tabakin, Board President, WCEC Women's Business Center

"The Business Pitch Competition represents a milestone for women entrepreneurs and for WCEC Women's Business Center. Entrepreneurs presenting are all long-term clients of WCEC. They have compelling growth stories and apply their skills to address real-life problems or gaps in the market. WCEC is thrilled to support their success in our first live event since the Covid pandemic," says WCEC Executive Director Rana Shanawani.

Startup businesses in the following fields have been invited to pitch: healthcare/medical, food, and STEM/education. Past Pitch Competition participants included: <u>Create That Party</u>, <u>Adventures for the Soul</u>, <u>Disrupt The Gap</u>, and <u>SpectraSpray</u>.

For more information about WCEC's Business Pitch Competition and to purchase tickets, please visit <u>eventbrite</u>.

About Women's Center for Entrepreneurship Corp.

The Women's Center for Entrepreneurship Corp. (WCEC) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit. As a resource partner for the U.S. Small Business Administration, the WCEC's mission is to empower women to invest in themselves via entrepreneurship by providing necessary resources for women to successfully start, own, operate, & grow their businesses. The WCEC works with women and BIPOC-owned businesses at the start up stage and existing small businesses looking to scale up by providing educational resources, business counseling, and technical assistance. For more information, visit <u>www.wcecnj.org</u>